

## Only one rail line 'worth electrifying'

Only one of Britain's main railway lines, the east coast line from King's Cross, London, to Newcastle-upon-Tyne, is worth electrifying, according to stringent conditions set by the Government in June. British Rail is under pressure to secure more efficient operation and productivity gains to help to make more routes profitable enough for electrification. Page 3

## TUC call for job creation

The creation of 900,000 new jobs every year from now until 1986 and an annual growth rate of 4 per cent are needed to bring unemployment below the one million level. The Trades Union Congress is expected to say in its economic review in January. Page 2

## Libyans try to disprove Reagan

Libya is mounting a campaign to disprove President Reagan's allegations that Americans living and working there are in danger of their lives. American oilmen on lucrative contracts there are expressing anger at the decision to call them home. Page 4

## Sakharovs weak and emaciated

Dr Andrei Sakharov and his wife were weak and emaciated after their 17-day hunger strike, according to Miss Liza Alexeyeva, for whom they staged the protest and who visited them in hospital at the weekend. They had been threatened with force-feeding and each had repeatedly been told that the other was dying. Page 6

## London Labour to end rates levy

The Labour Party's Greater London Regional Council adopted a policy of creating financial surpluses to oppose the Government's Local Finance Bill. It decided to cease to draw up budgets and levy rates in 1982. Page 3

## Slogan bottled

The familiar "drinks pinta milk" slogan is to disappear from the nation's advertising media under a new "ban" by the National Milk Development Council. Page 1

## alist concern

Organiser of a two-week "American by American" tour, including the New York Times, criticised British Embassy staff in Washington and the Foreign Office in London for a "total lack of support". Page 3

## Cash crisis

The local government workers' 7 per cent pay settlement has highlighted unrealistic inflation forecasts and threatens to spark a public spending crisis over the Government's attempts to switch its medium-term expenditure plans. Page 13

## EEC meeting

EEC foreign ministers meet in London today for intensive but informal talks seeking agreement on vital reforms in the Community's agriculture policy and budget contribution scales. Page 6

## Alfa cutback

Alfa Romeo has "its back to the wall" and plans to be idle for four months next year, thus cutting 280,000 cars to 180,000. Page 13

## Test set for draw

Sonil Gavaskar, the Indian captain, scored 163 not out in the second Test against England in Bangalore. With one day's play remaining, the match is destined to end in a draw. Page 12

## Skiing success

Konrad Bartelski, of Britain, the son of a naturalised Pole, finished second to Erwin Koch, of Austria, in a World Cup downhill race at Val Gardena, Italy, beaten by only 11/100ths of a second. Page 18

## Letters: On constituency boundaries

Letters: On constituency boundaries, from Mr G. P. Barnes, and Mr Tom Ellis, MP, from the union with Rome, from the Bishop of Birmingham; playing in snow, from the Secretary of the Rugby Football Union; Leading articles: Poland; SDP and Mr Douglas-Mann. Features, pages 6, 8

## Philip Hodgson points out the message for Mrs Thatcher

Philip Hodgson points out the message for Mrs Thatcher in the lonely hearts columns; Des Wilson on the thoughtlessness of once-a-year charity; Anthony Burgess on the perils of being colour blind. Obituaries, page 10

## Mr Laurence King, Mr John Mansbridge

Home News 2, 3, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000

# Poland shuts door on democracy with martial law

From Roger Boyes in Warsaw and Our Foreign Staff in London

The Polish leadership has put an end to the country's experiment with democracy by imposing martial law and detaining members of Solidarity, the independent trade union. A Government proclamation banned a wide range of civil liberties, including trade union activities, foreign travel, and public assemblies with the exception of religious services. A 10 pm to 6 am curfew was introduced and everyone over the age of 12 was ordered to carry an identification card at all times.

Polish soldiers, who were told to use force if necessary to restore calm, patrolled the streets of Warsaw in battle gear. Some carried rifles with fixed bayonets. Telephone and Telex lines as well as air services with the outside world were cut off all day, creating widespread confusion about the fate of Solidarity and other non-government leaders.

The moves, which were announced before dawn by General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the Communist Party leader, Prime Minister and Defence Minister, came after a week of bitter inactivity between Solidarity and the Government, with the party leadership accusing the union of destroying any hope of coalition rule.

General Jaruzelski said that he had taken the measures because "the country was on the edge of the abyss". In a speech broadcast repeatedly on radio and television throughout the day, he explained that he had acted with a heavy heart to prevent the total collapse of the Polish state which, he claimed, had been "not days but hours away". He added: "We are not aiming for a military coup d'état nor a military dictatorship".

A military Council of Salvation, which was set up by the general to run the country in the middle of last night, ordered the arrest of up to 1,000 people, including leaders of Solidarity and former Government officials. But Mr Lech Walesa, the leader of the Solidarity movement, reported to be still free and consulting Government officials about moves to avert a threatened general strike.

Archbishop Józef Glemp, the Roman Catholic Primate of Poland, condemned the state of affairs and made an appeal for reason. "The Church learned with grief of the interruption in the dialogue (between Solidarity and Polish authorities)", the Archbishop said in a sermon at the Jesuit Church in the old section of Warsaw.

The official news agency, PAP, said that the Military Council was made up of 14 generals, one admiral and five colonels. A Government spokesman said that the authorities intended to carry out planned reforms of the economy in what he described as Poland's "second revolution".

The state of war will provide the conditions for the economic reform by blocking chaos, unrest and the political oppositionists who said "no" to everything," he added.

## Scargill rallies opposition to Government

The decision by miners to call for a strike ballot marked the start of a campaign of mass opposition to the Conservative Government, Mr Arthur Scargill said yesterday. He told a centenary celebration of the birth of Willie Gallacher, Scotland's first Communist MP, "I can think of no more appropriate way to celebrate the centenary than that each and every one of us will take part in that campaign of mass opposition".

Labour Party members had an obligation to take to the streets in the peace movement, and to protest on the jobs march movement. Mr Scargill, who was speaking at Loch Gelly Fife, was making his first public speech since winning the election for president of the miners' union.

He said 1981 could provide the turning point in British politics. Mr Scargill also criticised the decision of the Labour Party's national executive committee to oppose the candidacy of Peter Tatchell in Bermondsey. "I hope the national executive committee when it next meets will overturn this decision," he said.

It was the first step towards a witch-hunt in the Labour Party. Everyone in the Labour Party had to be on their guard. If there is a danger, it is from those who don't believe in a socialist

alternative, and remain in the party. Referring to the miners' claim for a minimum £100 a week, Mr Scargill said miners' wages had been eroded over the past three to four years. "We are calling upon our membership in the next few weeks to support the policies which I believe they have already supported in the presidential election. "We are asking for support because we know the only thing the (National Coal) Board and Conservative Government understand is the unity and determination of the working classes".

Mr Scargill said that the miners were already giving first aid and comfort to the man in the front seat. His feet were hanging out of the window. His eyes were flickering and he appeared to be in a state of deep shock. There were two bodies on the back seat. It looked as though something on their laps had exploded.



Face of Poland: Members of a Polish swimming team who have been competing on the European Cup short course in Barnet, Hertfordshire, heard the news at their Watford hotel. They will fly home tomorrow as planned.

## Blizzards make Britain 'giant disaster area'

By a Staff Reporter

Much of Britain was turned into a "giant disaster area" by a new wave of blizzards sweeping in from the west yesterday. Many main roads and hundreds of minor ones were impassable because of snow drifts or fallen trees. Railways lines were blocked, thousands of homes were without electricity, others were flooded and two people were drowned at sea.

The snow came just as the weathermen had predicted. Devon and Cornwall were the first to suffer, as force eight gales caused severe drifting. The Royal Automobile Club described conditions as "nightmarish". Their spokesman said: "Countless roads are blocked, there have been hundreds of accidents, and numerous stranded motorists."

"It's a giant disaster area. With all the elements combined conditions are as bad as can be imagined. The snow has been reported trapped in 6ft drifts on a blocked road in Shropshire last night. Police using tractors and mechanical diggers mounted a big rescue operation to haul cars out of a half-mile stretch on the A5 between Shrewsbury and Telford."

"We don't think that any drivers will have to spend the night in their vehicles, but many of them will have to spend the night in either Shrewsbury or Telford, because the road is completely blocked," police said. Gritting lorries were fighting a losing battle with snow covering the grit soon after it had been laid and drivers and rail travellers face long delays and a hazardous journey to work today.

Many roads in North and South Wales, the West Country, Southern England and the Midlands were blocked. The M5 was the only route open into Devon. Several motorways including the M1, M5, M6 and M11 had only one lane open and the A36 trunk road was closed near Exeter. In the Lake District and Kirkcubright Pass between Windermere and Ullswater was closed and traffic was at a virtual standstill in the north of the Lakes.

In many cities and towns bus services were either stopped entirely or severely curtailed, including London, Birmingham and Oxford. At Oxford, on the edge of a snow-covered landscape, a car was parked on the west of the square, only a few hundred yards from Speakers' Corner, where police had been keeping vigil since afternoon against rival factions of Iranian demonstrators apart.

Some residents said that the car appeared to have been parked for some time, as it was surrounded by snow. Mrs Marcella Thomson said: "Over the past five days the car has been parked in the same spot. I think the people who were in it may have died."

Sir Arthur Retherington, former chairman of the British Gas Corporation, was in his sitting room just yards from the front when the bomb went off. "I heard a loud bang and went to the window. I could see this small white car, it had been parked on the side of the road," Sir Arthur said.

The man who was carried away was dark and swarthy looking. I think he had a beard—he may have been an Arab. I don't think he was a local as I don't remember seeing him before."

The owner of the car said last night he had unwittingly lent it to a friend a few hours before the explosion (the Press Association reports). Mr Mollison Ghafouri, of Woodland Avenue, Luton, said that his car yesterday morning "to do a job."

Mr Ghafouri said: "I didn't know what he meant and he didn't explain. But I don't think he would get mixed up in any kind of terrorist activity." Mr Ghafouri said his friend had asked for the car on Saturday night when they were at a friend's house in Kilburn, North London, near the Tottenham area. He said he would lend the car back this afternoon.

## Test-tube twins due on the NHS

By Nicholas Timmins and Annabel Ferriman

Test-tube twins, conceived on the National Health Service, are due to be born in early June at the Royal Free Hospital, Hampstead, north London.

If all goes well, they could be the first test-tube twins in Britain, and will be the first test-tube babies to be conceived on the NHS since the early work of Dr Robert Edwards and Mr Patrick Steptoe.

A woman, aged 31, from Stockport has been carrying the non-identical twins for 34 weeks after treatment by a team led by Professor Ian Craft, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the hospital.

If all goes well, they will make the Royal Free team only the second in Britain, and fourth or fifth in the world, to achieve a successful birth. The first test-tube twins, a boy and a girl, were born in Australia last year.

The success of the Royal Free team, who have worked independently of Steptoe and Edwards but have cooperated with one of the Australian groups, raises hopes that the test-tube technique may in time become a relatively routine procedure.

Professor Ian Craft said yesterday: "We are absolutely delighted. We are confident that success must come again." Since August two other patients have become pregnant but have miscarried at about 6 weeks. The woman who is expecting twins, however, has passed the period, when the risk of miscarriage is greatest.

Professor Craft said: "We are confident that we are ironing out the problems and we are no longer dependent. This offers real hope that the technique will in time become much more commonplace."

The sex of the twins may not be known until the birth. Professor Craft, who hopes to pass details to other NHS groups next year, said the risk to the females of an abnormality outweighed the risk of abnormality.

Two London hospitals, St Thomas' and King's College, have worked on the technique, and work continues at a third, Hammersmith Hospital. In 60 out of 11 test-tube babies have been born in Britain, and 12 in Australia. A few pregnancies have been established in the United States, and Edwards and Steptoe, have more than 60 pregnancies established in France, Sweden and West Germany are also working on the technique.

Since Edwards and Steptoe's first three successes in 1978 and 1979 at Oldham General Hospital, the only successful test-tube baby treatment has been at a private clinic run by Mr and Mrs Cambridge when Mr Steptoe retired from the NHS.

It charges either £1,600 or £2,100 for a course of treatment, depending on whether certain preliminary investigations are needed. Change in technique, page 2

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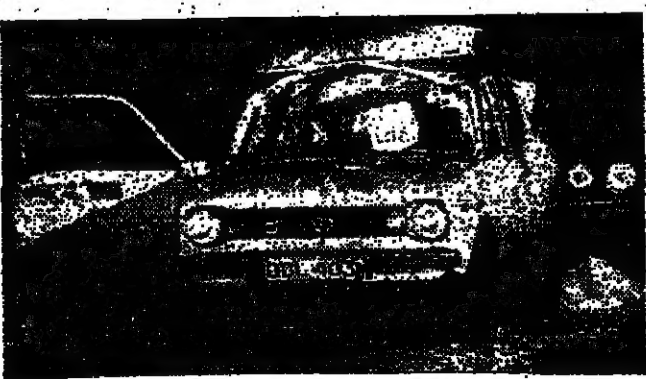
## Two Iranians killed in London car bomb blast

By Robin Young

Two Iranians were killed and a third seriously injured when a bomb exploded in their car in Connaught Square, near Marble Arch in the West End of London yesterday afternoon.

The three men were in a car which was preparing to pull away from the kerb when the explosion happened. The two passengers in the rear seats died almost immediately. The driver was taken to St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, where he underwent an operation for severe injuries. His condition was said to be very serious.

Scotland Yard sources said last night that the men were believed to be supporters of the Khomayni regime who were transporting the bomb to a target. Anti-terrorist squad detectives and Special Branch officers were trying to discover the intended destination of the device, which was thought to contain between three and four ounces of explosive.



The bombed car in which two men died.

Residents who rushed from their select Regency homes when they heard the blast said it looked as though something the passengers were carrying in their laps had exploded. Mr Ronald Prince, a dentist, who ran to the car, a white Datsun Cherry, after the explosion, said: "A neighbour of mine was already giving first aid and comfort to the man in the front seat. His feet were hanging out of the window. His eyes were flickering and he appeared to be in a state of deep shock. There were two bodies on the back seat. It looked as though something on their laps had exploded."

سكوت ان الشمل



## NEWS IN SUMMARY

## Dispute over mobile health team

Epsom District Hospital has been unable to provide a mobile medical team from its large casualty unit to attend the scenes of accidents because of a dispute over who should pay the sum of £36.50.

Junior doctors at the Surrey hospital refused to turn out as volunteers unless they were covered by insurance against injury. The Department of Health and the district area health authorities said they could not provide funds for the policy.

After renewed requests from the ambulance service and the community health council for a "flying squad" from Epsom hospital, consultants there decided to raise the £36.50 annual group insurance premium themselves.

They were still £2 short of the sum needed when the latest emergency highlighted the need for a mobile medical team. A fatal accident at Leatherhead, five miles from Epsom hospital, which, because of the dispute, had to be attended by a team from Kingston hospital, 12 miles from the accident.

## Armed robbers tie up family and take £1,500

An Oxfordshire publican and his family, who were awoken at gunpoint, tied up and robbed early yesterday, are believed to be the latest victims of two masked men in boiler suits who have carried out about ten similar raids in the past six or seven months in southern England.

In the attack, at the isolated Fox and Hounds public house at Littleworth, near Faringdon, Mr Geoffrey Billings, the licensee, collapsed unconscious in front of the men. Mrs Audrey Billings and the couple's two sons, aged 21 and 19, were bound hand and foot.

The robbers, whose faces were covered with balaclava helmets, drove away in Mr Billings's car with £1,500 in cash and a video recorder. Mr Billings, who has high blood pressure, was later seen by a doctor.

## Housing Act 'is unfair to wives'

The Housing Act passed last year is leaving battered wives without a roof over their heads, the National Consumer Council claims in an investigation into the selection of model tenancy agreements published today (Our Consumer Affairs Correspondent writes).

The Act represents a considerable step backwards in cases where marriages break down, the council says. Landlords can no longer transfer tenancies to wives, though in most cases it is the wife who will have custody of the children.

New Tenancy Agreements, (National Consumer Council, 18 Queen Anne's Gate, London, SW1, E1).

## Animal research centre break-in

Members of the Northern Animal Liberation League said last night they had broken into an agricultural research centre in Cheshire and discovered more than 2,500 chickens with their beaks removed crammed into tiny cages seven at a time. Pigs were chained by the neck in narrow pens, and one was dead and decomposing, the league said.

A Granada Television camera crew had filmed the campaigners from the roadside. But management of the John Bibby Nutrition Research and Advisory Centre, near Neston, denied that any livestock were subject to cruelty. "We have nothing to hide and this break-in has done no good at all to the animals", Mr Max Little, the farm manager, said.

## Boy of 15 is Rubik Cube champion

Julian Chivers, aged 15, of Norwich, broke the world record for solving the Rubik Cube at the British championship at the Savoy Hotel, London, on Saturday. His time was 25.79 seconds, a fraction of a second better than the previous record, held by a French boy.

## Train crash man dies

Mr Harold Goldner, aged 66, of Whitwick Close, Leeds, died yesterday in York District Hospital. He was the most seriously hurt of 24 casualties when the 13.50 York-Liverpool train jumped the track and crashed at Ulfkelf, near York, last Tuesday.

## Ripper inquiry ends

West Yorkshire Police Committee have been called to a meeting tomorrow to hear the findings of an internal inquiry into the investigation by West Yorkshire police of the Yorkshire Ripper murders.

## TUC to call for more jobs and faster growth

By Donald Macintyre, Labour Correspondent

The TUC is expected to argue in the new year that the creation of 900,000 jobs a year between now and 1986 and an unprecedented annual growth rate of 4 per cent are needed to bring unemployment below one million.

Those suggestions, and an immediate refutation package worth well over the £6,200m union leaders were seeking at this time last year, are expected to form central demands of the TUC economic review due for publication in January. The review, which is likely to be the most ambitious published by the TUC, will estimate that what it regards as the total job shortage will be at least 5,300,000 by 1986 unless present policies are checked.

That figure is intended to include those on special employment measures, the unregistered unemployed and a number of full-time jobs equivalent to those on short-time working. TUC economists contend that the present job shortage is more than four million.

Arguing that about 4,500,000 jobs will have to be created in the next five years if unemployment is to be brought down to acceptable levels, the review will develop TUC demands for a central planning agency modelled on those in France and Japan.

At the same time a draft broadly approved by the TUC economic committee implies that the main growth in jobs may well need to come in service industries, including public services, rather than in manufacturing.

Although the TUC will use the economic review as the main plank of a propaganda campaign against the Government's policies, its strongest impact may well be on Labour Party policy. A number of senior union leaders see the

TUC as filling a policy vacuum which they believe has been opened up by Labour's interne-warfare.

A confidential draft of the review admits that the employment targets it sets are highly ambitious and that the rate of growth envisaged has not been achieved in any sustained way since the war.

It argues that the proposals for a budget stimulus, which TUC economists will prepare for next month's meeting of the economic committee, will have to be "supplemented by further policies to encourage output growth and remove constraints".

The draft says that in service industries based on telecommunications and computing, the impact of new technology on jobs can be offset if TUC policies for economic growth and job security through collective agreements can be maintained.

But it predicts that the main area for employment expansion in the future will lie in the public services and argues that "there are huge unfulfilled needs in society which demand an increase in the public services", including education, health and community services.

TUC economists have yet to release the economic committee's analysis and a big a refutation package would be required in the first year of the medium-term strategy. The TUC's figure last year of 15,200m, which it has followed with demand for £24,000m to be spent on capital projects over the next five years, has gained a wider currency than it expected among critics of the Government, including some leading Tory "wets".

The demand is likely to be increased before publication of the economic review.

## Miners 'special case' remark worries NCB

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

National Coal Board executives are embarrassed by the apparent discovery the Cabinet is how to handle the threatened miners' pay strike.

Sir Derek Ezra, the NCB chairman, has been given a transcript of a television remark by Mr Francis Pym, Leader of the Commons, in which he suggested that the miners' could be made a "special case" yet again because of increased productivity.

The coal board has told the National Union of Mineworkers that a projected £40m saving due to improved output next year has already been accounted for in the £102.5m wage offer tabled last week but rejected by coal field union leaders.

A senior NCB source said last night: "Our latest offer assumes the benefit of a further increase in productivity next year. The money is already on the table." His comment appears to rule out the productivity pay loophole suggested by Mr Pym on the BBC programme, *Question Time*, last Thursday, as a way of averting a dangerous confrontation between the miners and the Government.

There is now a very real fear among some miners that next month's pitched battle will produce a 55 per cent majority required for the NUM to mount a national strike, although the union has said it will give at least a week's notice before stopping the pits.

However, if the vote is actually taken, the departments of employment and energy are playing down the prospect that the miners could drive up their present 9.3 per cent to 10 per cent and beyond.

Mr Pym's remarks, it is emphasized, were not to be taken as a shift in Cabinet policy, which remains solidly behind implementing the public sector capping of 4 per cent wage rises in the 1981-82 pay round.

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Meanwhile, the coal board says its last "final" offer will stretch the industry's resources by £10m more than it can afford. Once the round in the industry is completed, wage and salary costs would rise by £170.5m, swallowing up two-thirds of the price rise that took effect last month.

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Professor Ian Craft at work in the Royal Free Hospital

## The test-tube twins breakthrough

By Nicholas Timmins and Annabel Ferriman

Professor Ian Craft first started work on the test-tube baby technique in 1977, some nine years after Steptoe and Edwards began their work at Oldham General Hospital.

Up to July, he says, eggs had been removed from live births, but last year a number were fertilized, only 15 embryos were transferred to the mothers. In mid-1979 one pregnancy was achieved but the mother miscarried at six to seven weeks.

Professor Craft said yesterday, however, that a number of changes in technique earlier this year had led to the present success. Two drugs are used to simplify and control the release of ova so that their release is predictable and they can be collected during normal operating hours.

First the woman's monthly cycle is carefully monitored, using ultra-sound to detect the growth of the follicles in the ovary from which the egg is released.

When the decision to proceed has been made, a fertility drug, clomiphene, is given to stimulate the follicle growth. That is followed by another drug, gonadotrophin, to trigger the release of the ovum. Thirty-six hours after the gonadotrophin is given, the egg is removed.

Originally the team fertilized the ovum immediately. But consultation with one of the groups working in Melbourne, Australia, who have produced live births, has led Professor Craft's group at the Royal Free Hospital, Hampstead, north London, to leave the eggs in a culture medium for between four and six hours to

allow them to ripen further before fertilization.

That appears to make it easier for the sperm to penetrate and fertilize the egg, and also produces embryos more likely to start dividing and developing normally.

The use of the drugs also increases the number of ova released. Instead of the one egg usually produced in a normal cycle an average of two and sometimes up to five can be obtained.

That is done by laparoscopy, the technique in which a small puncture is made in the abdomen, allowing a telescope and aspirating needle to be introduced to suck the eggs from the follicles on the surface of the ovary.

Once the ova have successfully fertilized and appear normal, up to two and sometimes three embryos are reimplanted, after they have developed to the two or four cell stage.

Professor Craft said that use of a new type of catheter, made of Teflon, to introduce the embryos through the cervix had helped to increase the success rate. It has also contributed to the success as had improved methods of preparing and concentrating the sperm before fertilization.

In the case of the woman now carrying twins, an attempt to give her a test-tube baby in July failed. In September, however, ova were obtained and fertilized, and the embryos were inserted 49 hours after the ova were removed.

The pregnant woman has no previous children and was in fact born with one ovary and fallopian tube missing. Most of the remaining fallopian tube had to be removed last year,

when she suffered an ectopic pregnancy, a potentially dangerous condition when the embryo implants in a fallopian tube rather than the womb.

"Her only chance of becoming pregnant was by the test-tube baby technique", Professor Craft said.

He praised the work of the research team of four, and the patients "who are prepared to go to any lengths to have a child".

The work has been financed almost entirely by the National Health Service, as part of the hospital's normal work, with no charge to patients.

On average three to four women a week are treated by the test-tube baby technique at the Royal Free Hospital, which has had to restrict the number of patients treated. Professor Craft said it would not be possible to expand the programme because of other commitments.

"At the moment it is very time-consuming, although the procedures are relatively simple in principle. Our current interest is in trying to see whether we can simplify the technique to make it possible for women to be treated in their local district general hospital."

It is important that people realize that this technique is not the answer to all forms of infertility. It may, however, be the most cost-effective way of dealing with diseases of the fallopian tube, rather than conventional forms of surgery.

"It might also be used to treat other forms of infertility, such as unexplained infertility."

## Tatchell appeals for a hearing

By Philip Webster and David Walker

Mr Peter Tatchell and the officers of the Labour Party Executive Committee are expected to be allowed to put their case before it decides whether to confirm the organization's committee's refusal to endorse Mr Tatchell as a parliamentary candidate.

A letter has been sent to Mr Ronald Hayward, Labour's general secretary, asking the NEC to defer a decision until the Bermondsey party has had an opportunity of defending itself.

Mr Tatchell told *The Times* last night that he, Mr Edward Bowman, the Bermondsey party chairman, and Mrs Bette Crickmar, the vice-chairman, would on Wednesday go to Transport House, where the NEC is expected to confirm the rejection of Mr Tatchell and the decision to set up an inquiry into the Militant Tendency.

The letter is the latest move in a defiant campaign by Mr Tatchell and his party to resist last week's decision. His case has been taken up by the far left as a test case, and Mr Wedgwood Benn will be speaking in his support at a rally, organized to bring further pressure on the NEC in Bermondsey tomorrow night.

Mr William Hamilton yesterday held off a strong left-wing Labour challenge and was re-elected as prospective parliamentary candidate in his constituency of South East London. A selection conference last week ended in a tie between Mr Hamilton and Mr Henry McLeish. Yesterday, after a week of determined lobbying by both camps, Mr Hamilton won by 22 votes to 14.

He wants a by-election because he has changed his views on the NEC.

Miss Harriet Harman, who describes herself as a supporter of Mr Wedgwood Benn, was last night selected as Labour candidate for the South London constituency of Peckham. This represents another shift to the left in London Labour parties.

The present Labour MP, Peckham is Mr Harry Lamborn aged 66, a moderate who has acted as campaign manager for Mr Denis Healey in party leadership elections.

Mr Jeffrey Thomas, the MP who left the Labour Party and joined the Social Democrats, was challenged yesterday to fight a by-election in his constituency of Epsom.

Mr Robert Bagnall, the Labour Party secretary in the South Wales constituency, said he would pay Mr Thomas's deposit.

Mr Thomas has rejected the challenge, but the SNP entering contest will be meeting in London today to discuss difficulties caused for the party by Mr Bruce Douglas-Mann's determination to fight a by-election in his Merton, Mitcham and Morden constituency after announcing his own withdrawal from the Labour Party.

He wants a by-election because he has changed his views on the NEC, but has angered both SNP leaders who regard his stance as self-indulgent, and the constituency Social Democrats, who feel it is unacceptable for him to say he wants to be selected by the SNP.

Leading article, page 3  
End of rates demands, page 3  
Diary, page 8

## HOWE 'WILL NOT CUT BENEFITS'

By Philip Webster  
Political Reporter

Conservative MP's who rebelled against the Government in last week's public spending debate believe their action has persuaded Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, to drop his plan to cut short-term benefits by 2 per cent in real terms.

After a private meeting of Conservative backbenchers last Tuesday night Mr Michael Joyling, the chief whip, was told that there would be a "double-figure abstention" in the debate on the day, but that at least twice that number would vote against the short-term benefit orders when they came before the Commons.

Having shown, with 14 abstentions, that their threat on the public spending vote was not an empty one, the critics are certain that the Government will not risk humiliation on the 2 per cent "We have won on the one. They have seen sense" a prominent abstainer said yesterday.

In a sense the Chancellor's retreat on the 2 per cent cut, which would have saved the Treasury about £60m, was inevitable. Only a few more than twenty Conservatives would have been required to vote with the Opposition to defeat it. The critics knew they can muster more than enough.

The "wets" are now turning their sights towards the Budget. They have told ministers they are looking for a series of proposals that will give positive encouragement to industry, and in so doing offer hope to the unemployed. Capital investment incentives like the Channel tunnel a move against high interest rates and the beginning of the end of the national insurance surcharge.

Science report  
Absence of gene leads to stunted growth

By the Staff of "Nature"

The absence of a gene has now been shown to be the cause of a form of stunted growth in human beings that cannot be treated by the administration of human growth hormone.

The discovery, due to Dr John A. Phillips and Brian L. Helle from Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, and from Genentech, the United States genetic engineering company, and Dr Milo Zachmann from Zurich University, is based on a genetic analysis of 15 members of three related Swiss families in which the growth deficiency is inherited. All six parents have normal stature, but the growth of four out of nine children is stunted.

Much stunted growth seems to be caused by a deficiency of the naturally occurring hormone called human growth hormone which can be corrected by the administration during infancy and afterwards of hormone obtained from dead people. The Swiss cases now studied cannot be dealt with in this way because they produce anti-body which produce anti-hormone is injected, thus neutralizing its effects. Such "type A" cases of growth hormone are a small fraction of all children with stunted growth, estimated at about one in 6,000 of all live births.

The proof that the four affected Swiss children entirely lack the gene responsible for the growth hormone has been accomplished through techniques of genetic engineering.

On the evidence available, chromosomes from the four children entirely lack pieces of DNA corresponding to the natural gene for human growth hormone, which is known to be located on the human chromosome seven.

The authors of the research conclude that those with type A growth hormone deficiency have inherited from each of their parents a set of chromosomes in which the hormone gene is missing. Persons inheriting one normal set of chromosomes and another with a missing gene appear to produce enough of the normal hormone to be able to grow to normal stature.

Presumably individuals with the type A deficiency produce a defective hormone, neutralize injected hormone because, never having produced the hormone for themselves, they have no distinguishing between some other foreign hormone.

The research may form a clearer understanding of the common form of growth hormone deficiency. This is of practical importance when genetic engineering companies are trying to manufacture the hormone.

In Britain, the issue has recently become of particular importance because of the way in which supplies of the hormone, derived from public and hospital mortuaries, have recently declined, so that the National Health Service is soon to reduce the doses of the material administered to patients.

Source: Proceedings of the US National Academy of Sciences, Vol 78, pp 6372-6375 (October 1981).

## Fedorowicz triumphs

From Harry Goldsmid  
Brighton

By beating Heiden in a complicated whit and last round of the Regency Masters Tournament here yesterday, the American international master John Fedorowicz not only first prize but also achieved a grandmaster status by gaining seven points.

King, Koryevic, the British grandmasters Miles, Nunn and Regan shared second place with 6½ points.

On Saturday, Heiden and Pryor tied for seventh place with six points.

Remaining scores: Reg, Hodgson, Kenworthy, Kulligowski, Flakett and Taubert 5½ points; Britton, Cane, Sammel, Friedgood, Jacobs, Koster, C. Lee, Leverett, Pilester and Westwood, 4½ points; G. Smith, 4; Boer, Iakov, Muir, Nokes, Nykopp, Povich, Rose, van der Sterren, 4 points; Dunnington, Fier, Mills, Fishback and Triger 3½ points; Formanek, D. Lee, Roll, Schiller, Mike Taggart, 3; van Parreren, 3 points; Haldemann, 3; O'Brien, 2½ points; Josephs 1 point.

## CORRECTION

An opinion poll in Scotland after the Crosby by-election showed 77 per cent support, compared with 16 per cent for the SDP. The SDP as reported on December 4.

Overseas selling prices:  
Belgium B 100, 1980 2.99;  
Canada C 100, 1980 5.00;  
Denmark D 100, 1980 5.00;  
France F 100, 1980 5.00;  
Germany G 100, 1980 5.00;  
Italy I 100, 1980 5.00;  
Japan J 100, 1980 5.00;  
Netherlands N 100, 1980 5.00;  
Portugal P 100, 1980 5.00;  
Spain S 100, 1980 5.00;  
Sweden S 100, 1980 5.00;  
Switzerland S 100, 1980 5.00;  
United Kingdom UK 100, 1980 5.00;  
United States US 100, 1980 5.00;  
West Germany W 100, 1980 5.00;  
Yugoslavia Y 100, 1980 5.00.



# London Labour group to stop demanding rates

By David Walker

A policy of deliberately created financial anarchy which could mark the beginning of the end of the Labour Party as the prime mover in the municipal government of London was adopted at a weekend conference against the Government's new Local Finance Bill.

Delegates from more than eighty constituencies and a score of trade unions on the Greater London Regional Council of the Labour Party decided to cease to draw up budgets and levy rates next year.

That would foment a local government crisis, the executive committee said.

Mr Edward Knight, leader of Lambeth council and one of the architects of the policy, amplified that into "a crisis of such dimension that you persuade the Government to retreat or you force the very existence of that Government on to the agenda".

Mr Knight wants Lambeth to try the policy first, but one Lambeth councillor, Mr Neil Turner, said that the council's director of finance would be suspended if he came between the Labour group and its policy.

While the London Labour Party has decided to take all possible steps to resist the Tory Government's attacks on local authority services, its resolution adds: "We do not expect Labour councillors to embark on any course of action which is clearly contrary to law."

Thanks to the block vote cast by the Labour region of the Transport and General Workers' Union, acting in concert with the electricians and general workers' delegations, the party was saved from adopting policies of mass mobilization of town hall staffs.

general strikes, and rejected a motion calling on Labour councils to freeze rents, make no rate increases and not to cut spending.

The conference had been called when the Local Finance Bill still contained the proposal to force councils to hold referendums before levying rates above a certain level. That has now been dropped from the Bill and Mr Arthur Latham, the conference chairman, was clearly embarrassed that he did not know what the Bill will now contain.

One suggestion included "disengagement" with Labour councillors resigning from their committee chairmanships in order to allow opposition councillors to put disliked policies into effect.

The few Labour councillors in attendance, including Mr Kenneth Livingstone, leader of the Greater London Council, preferred to stay put. "We will stay in there and fight," he said.

Members of militant tendency, including most of the Labour Party Young Socialists, favoured a 24-hour general strike. "It could force the Tories to retreat and begin a determined drive to force a general election", a young socialist's resolution said.

Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, might have drawn some comfort from the proceedings, if only to observe how deep his message about rate levels has sunk. Mr Knight said: "Raising rates is politically and practically unacceptable".

Fifteen thousand people, one in four of London Transport's staff, will lose their jobs if Lord Deming's decision on the illegality of the GLC's fares subsidy is upheld by the House of Lords when it gives judgment this week, Mr Livingstone said.

He asked the conference delegates whether the Labour Party could stay in power on the council if that was the consequence of the judgment. He promised not to avoid a fight.

Chief officers at County Hall believe that the reason for the delay in the Lords' giving judgment is that they have been working out the practical consequences of forcing the GLC to reverse its decision on the subsidy.

One possible outcome is that the supplementary rate levied by the GLC to pay for the fare reductions will be declared illegal. However, the GLC could raise fares to their pre-October level, impose a new supplementary rate, and then cut fares again.

The Inner London Education Authority faces financial difficulties because October's supplementary rate also contained a £30m levy for the authorities. It has so far received only £5.1m and unless the supplementary rate is paid soon, payments to schools and teachers may be in danger.

The GLC itself had received only £15m out of £120m when Lord Deming ruled the supplementary rate to be illegal. If the Lords overturn the decision London boroughs will have to pay millions of pounds to the GLC immediately, plus a substantial interest penalty. Ratepayers would have to pay the whole levy by March 31.

London Transport's top executives are to receive a pay rise of 7.5 per cent. The GLC will be asked tomorrow to approve rises that give Sir Peter Massfield, the chairman, £36,550 a year back-dated to April 1.

# Embassy criticized over Paisley

From Richard Ford, Belfast

Mr David Burnside, an Organizer of a visit by "loyalist" politicians from Northern Ireland to the United States, yesterday criticized staff at the British Embassy in Washington and the Foreign Office in London for a "total lack of support" in helping with the arrangements.

As opposition to the two-week visit continued to grow in the United States, Mr Burnside said he expected the full backing of the British Government. More Daily Co-Congressmen have taken the letter to try to letta be President Reagan.

Mr Paisley, leader of the Ulster Unionist Party, visited the "Operation" campaign. He will be visiting the Unionist Party point of view to meetings in 20 cities across America and on television.

Mr Peter Robinson, his deputy Mr John Taylor and Mrs Norah Bradford, representing the Official Unionists, are going too. Mrs Bradford is taking the place of her husband, the Rev Robert Bradford, who was murdered last month.

Mr Burnside, the campaign's spokesman, said: "Opposition to this visit is growing in America and we feel that whatever our differences with the British Government, we deserve the support of the embassy and Foreign Office. There has been a total lack of support so far."

He expected the embassy and Foreign Office to fight any attempt to stop Mr Paisley's visit. The Americans had invited spokesmen from the Republican cause and it is right that Unionists should be allowed to put their point of view, he said.

"The opposition growing in America is disgraceful and we expect support, as this is primarily a visit of British parliamentarians."

In Belfast today Lord Gower, Minister of State at the Northern Ireland Office, is expected to have talks on the demands made during a 32-hour protest of loyalist prisoners held on remand in Crumlin Road jail, Belfast. The protest, in which four prison officers were held hostage but not injured, ended at 1.0 am on Saturday and later that day about 200 prisoners in A-wing were moved to other parts of the prison.

This morning Mr Peter Robinson, Democratic Unionist MP for Belfast East, and Mr John McQuade, Democratic Unionist MP for Belfast, North, accompanied by

Mr John Carson, a former Lord Mayor of Belfast, will visit the prison.

The prisoners are demanding segregation from republicans, a return to prison procedures in existence before 1976 and assurances about rights. They also want a report by a team from the International Red Cross on conditions in prisons in the province to be published. It was drawn up last summer after a fact-finding mission by three members of the IRC, and the Government has promised that it would be made public.

Next Monday Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, is to hold a one-day seminar at Stormont on the economy of Northern Ireland. Invitations have been sent to the province's MPs and Euro-MPs, except for Mr Owen Carron, Independent Republican MP for Fermanagh and South Tyrone. However, the Official Unionists have refused to attend and the indications are that Mr Paisley will not be going either.

Mr Prior made clear when he took over as Secretary of State that the province's grave economic problems were of paramount concern to him, and he is looking for an open exchange of views at the meeting.



Two of the dead: Mr Paul Cousins and Nicholas McMannus, aged 12. The victim's Christmas toys given away

The toys and Christmas presents of a schoolboy killed in last Friday's train crash at Seer Green, Buckinghamshire, were taken to a special toy service at his local church yesterday.

The parents of Andrew Russell decided to give the presents he would have received to the service so that they will be distributed to children in Tower Hamlets, London.

The boy, aged 12, died with his best friend, Nicholas McMannus, also aged 12, as they sat in the front carriage of a train taking them to the Royal Grammar School, in High Wycombe. The train ran into a stationary one.

Mrs Mary Russell, the boy's mother, of Layters Way, Gerrards Cross, said: "He was a very loving, willing, helpful boy and because he had helped us a lot recently we had bought him a radio-controlled car for Christmas."

"Andrew chose it himself, but now I do not know what we will do with it. I have given all his other little presents and stocking fillers to our local church."

On Saturday Mrs Russell and Nicho-

las McMannus' mother comforted each other in their grief. Mrs Russell said: "It is a terrible loss. We have both lost our eldest sons. But when you come from a Christian family you know that Andrew is in a far happier place than we are now."

Mr Jeffrey McManus of Bulstrode Way, Gerrards Cross, said Christmas presents that had been bought for his son, Nicholas, would now be given to his other son, Robert, aged nine.

The two other people who died in the crash were Mr Paul Cousins, aged 17, of Broom Close, Oxford Road, Tooting End, near Gerrards Cross, and Thomas Shaw, aged 32, of Harlesden, London, who was driving the passenger train. He was married with two children.

British Rail held an internal inquiry into the accident on Saturday, but it said later it did not reach any conclusion, as some witnesses were not available. The inquiry will be resumed today but the findings will not be made public. It is expected that a full public inquiry will be held later.

# A question over railways' future

## Electrification threatened by track record

By Michael Bailey

Transport Correspondent

British Rail is having great difficulty making a case for electrification under the conditions laid down by the Government last June.

Of the routes recommended for electrification in the joint BR/Dept of Transport report in February, only one, the east coast main line from King's Cross to York and Newcastle upon Tyne, has shown the required profit.

The next four in priority are the Midlands main line to Nottingham, Derby and Sheffield; the western main line to Bristol and South Wales; the West of England line to Exeter and Plymouth; and the North-east to South-west from Newcastle to Birmingham and Cardiff.

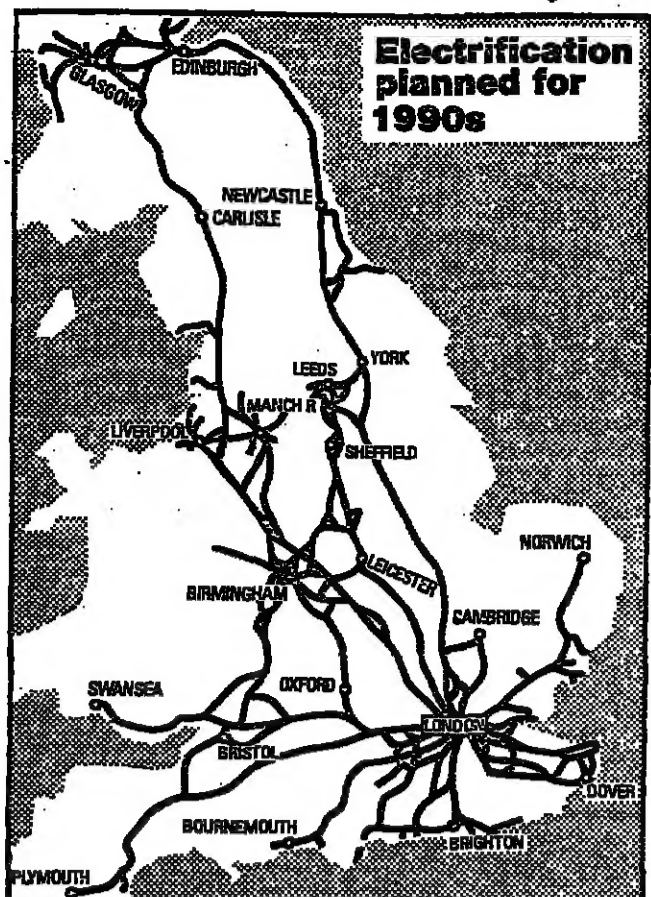
British Rail is making a desperate effort to improve its business forecast for those routes by increasing revenue, productivity and efficiency, in order to heave them into profit.

The most striking fact to emerge from the present exercise is that it is not about electrification at all. It is about the future of the railway itself.

The big question raised by Mrs Margaret Thatcher's Cabinet hawks, when February's joint report went out, was whether electrification merited investment but whether the railway did.

Everyone, including Professor Alan Walters, the Prime Minister's economic adviser, apparently accepts that if Britain's trunk routes are worth investment, they are worth electrifying. But the performance of the "commercial railway" - city, passenger and freight - has become deteriorating since 1978 and shows no sign of earning the profit to which both BR and the Government became committed in the mid-1970's.

As one senior railway manager put it yesterday: "The February review was conducted on the basis of an ongoing railway, and the question was whether there is a case for electric rather than diesel traction. The answer to which BR and the



Option 3: The lines BR wants to electrify under the 10-year programme.

Department of Transport subscribe was clearly "yes".

Electrification yielded an 11 per cent return over diesel on the traffic forecast used. But under Walters the conditions were changed. The argument ceased to be about electric versus diesel and became about the ongoing railway.

Mr Norman Fowler, then Minister of Transport, announced on June 22 that he was "inviting BR to prepare and submit a 10-year programme of schemes for electrification only of those potentially profitable main line routes where it is clear that the benefits would justify the investment".

The approval of each successive electrification

which points out that the February report called for improved financial performance by the commercial railway and productivity gains.

The department says that Mr Fowler's statement contained a commitment to a 10-year rolling programme of electrification, provided the conditions were met. That put it in a similar position to roads, which are also built on a rolling programme, but where individual schemes are brought forward only if they show an adequate return.

The 10-year programme is much smaller than the 20-year programme advocated in February. British Rail is now trying to make a case for something more like option 3 of that report (shown in the accompanying map) rather than the largest option, originally recommended.

The third option is for a 4,600-mile network instead of 5,800, and excludes from electrification such extremes as Penzance, Holyhead, Aberdeen and Hull.

The targets for productivity and profitability are those set by the BR board, the department says. But the board, caught in an unforeseen recession, knows it is not meeting those targets, and argues that the railway's long-term future should not be judged by a short-term position. The targets should be changed, or the programme proceeded with anyway.

Mr Fowler said in June that the Government had made its commitment, and wanted a matching commitment from BR in the form of improved profitability and productivity.

Some railway leaders accept that. "We do not quarrel with attempts to make us more efficient managers", one said. "We know there are big savings to be made both in the operation of services and the infrastructure and overheads."

"The results of freight and Inter-City are disappointing. It looks like taking longer than we thought to hit the target. They have every right to be suspicious of railway forecasts."

# Outcry over developers' plans for two sites

By Hugh Clayton

Environment Correspondent

Conservationists are making final efforts to stop construction projects which they say will destroy the character of two widely separated historic sites the hidden courtyard of Wardrobe Place, in the City of London, and grounds at Highclere Park, Hampshire, which were landscaped by Capability Brown.

The conservationists are angry about the Government's refusal to hold a public inquiry into plans to rebuild part of Wardrobe Place and to route a dual carriageway through the park. They say that the new road could be kept clear of the park at little cost.

Wardrobe Investments, owners of the Wardrobe Place buildings, has submitted new proposals after a more ambitious plan was opposed earlier this year.

"We are confident that we shall get planning permission, a Wardrobe spokesman said, adding that the scheme "balances the needs of the future with restoration and preservation".

Mr Geoffrey Fox, an accountant who works in Wardrobe Place and is chairman of its new tenants' association, said: "We want the plan thrown out. It is an improvement, but if it goes ahead Georgian buildings in this quiet backwater of the City will be dominated by twentieth-century buildings."

Objectors to plans for a road through Highclere Park claim that ministers have broken their own rules in deciding not to hold a public inquiry. The road is meant to relieve one of the last narrow sections of the A34 between Oxford and Southampton.

Mr John Anson, spokesman for the Highclere Park Action Group, said that the Government's manual on trunk roads states that an inquiry may be dispensed with only when there are few objections and when "none of them raises an issue of substance or a matter of general public importance".

The Department of Transport said that the route had been supported by 424 people of whom all but three were from the immediate locality, and that objectors numbered 25, of whom only 30 were from the immediate area.

# Toxteth plan threatened

From Our Correspondent, Liverpool

Mr Kenneth Oxford, Chief Constable of Merseyside, is to meet Toxteth community leaders tonight to discuss his new proposals for community policing in the district.

He will present his plans to defuse tension in the riot-scarred area which were supported earlier this month by the county's police authority. But already the new proposals, chaired by Mr Derek Worlock, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Liverpool, has become shrouded in controversy.

The Liverpool 8 Defence Committee, the main group representing blacks in Toxteth, have boycotted any discussions with Mr Oxford. They are likely to be joined in their protest by officials of the Merseyside Community Relations Council.

After the summer riots Mr Oxford organized a similar meeting of community leaders. That too was boycotted by the committee.

The setting up of a consultative committee to improve relations between the police and the community in Moss Side, Manchester has been recommended by a conference called to draw up a plan for the area.

# Prison education plea

By Our Political Staff

A Conservative MP today will urge an all-party inquiry into prison education, suggesting that it be placed on a statutory basis.

Mr Harry Greenway, the member for Ealing, North, is to tell the Commons Select Committee on Education, Science and the Arts, which will be meeting to consider its future programme of work, that prisoners should make more positive use of their time in custody and that at present, only 3 per cent of money spent on prisons goes towards education.

He will suggest that prisoners should statutorily be enabled to attempt to prove themselves academically suitable for particular courses.

Mr Greenway said yesterday that he would make the education an alternative to work in prisons.

"There is a fairly explosive situation in our prisons with such high numbers," he said. "We have to take positive measures to occupy them to promote a positive atmosphere."

Mr Greenway introduced a Bill in the last session of Parliament to provide for the aims he has in mind and he hopes to introduce a similar one in this session.

# HIGH FEAST

More than thirty officers and cadets from the Berwick Air Training Corps celebrated Christmas early yesterday, at the top of the Cheviot, altitude 2,076 feet, in north Northumberland. They walked to the top and had a traditional Christmas hunch, including chicken, Christmas pudding and mince pies.

# Maplin site plea may be dropped

By Our Environmental Correspondent

The Town and Country Planning Association may drop its planning application for the London's third airport at Maplin, Essex, this week. The validity of the application is being considered by Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment.

Mr David Hall, director of the association, said that it was reassured by a pledge from Mr Graham Eyre, QC, that evidence in favour of Maplin by objectors to expansion to the airport at Stansted, Essex, this week. He said that if he considered the Maplin application frivolous it would make "robust representations" to Mr Heseltine to award costs against the association.

If we felt there was some real danger of costs being awarded against us we would be in some difficulty," Mr Hall said. The association's financial report for last year, published less than a fortnight ago, spoke of "a very difficult cash flow position... which was especially acute during the latter part of the year."

Mr Eyre has been told by Rochford District Council, whose area includes Maplin, that the application is too vague to be considered seriously, but the inspector said that all questions of validity must be decided by Mr Heseltine.

Mr Hall said: "The prime consideration for us is the extent to which we can ensure that the Maplin alternative is considered. The statement made by the inspector removes one stumbling block."

"We think we have a very strong case for rejecting the view that we have behaved frivolously. We are flying the flag of the community at large."

The association intended to submit all its evidence about Maplin to the inquiry by the end of the year irrespective of how Mr Heseltine ruled on the application.

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The Polish crisis 2: How the world is reacting — and the confrontations that led to the showdown

# Fingers crossed at Nato that Russians stay out

From Ian Murray, Brussels, Dec 13

The first stage of a Nato precautionary plan to deal with a Polish crisis was set in motion here today by Dr Joseph Luns, the alliance's Secretary-General. He began a series of consultations with the permanent national representatives at Nato, to study the complex situation and prepare the way for a meeting tomorrow to work out an appropriate response.

For the moment, the Nato view is that events in Poland are self-contained, and there is no obvious intention by the Soviet Union. This is the determining factor in the prepared Nato response, which was worked out over a year ago, the initial crisis in Poland.

Exact details of that response are a closely guarded secret, but it is certain that Nato would not counter any Soviet military intervention with a military build-up of its own.

What is more likely in the event of Soviet tanks invading Poland is sustained diplomatic pressure to discredit the Kremlin in the eyes of the rest of the world. The United States, for its part, would probably try to enforce comprehensive economic sanctions.

For the moment, however, the Nato tactic is to wait and see. Mr Alexander Haig, the American Secretary of State, has decided to do the same. He has postponed for 24 hours his

plans for a six-day trip to Turkey, Israel, Egypt, Morocco, Pakistan and India, and is remaining in Brussels to keep in close touch with developments through the American embassy in Warsaw.

He is also close to Nato headquarters, and could be available if a sudden ministerial meeting were required. Mr Haig said today that the United States "saw no signs" that the Soviet Union might be about to invade Poland, but he added that it was too early to tell what would happen. "We are watching it very closely," he said. "We are consulting with our concerned allies here on the Continent, and we will continue to watch the situation."

Tomorrow's regular meeting of the Nato permanent representatives will be backed up by this time by political directors. They will assess the situation, and hope to bring from Poland a report on the situation, so that an adequate response can be approved. Mr Haig might attend this meeting.

The Council of Foreign Ministers of the European Community, which opens in London in the evening, will also review the situation in Poland. It is expected that the Council will discuss EEC reforms. Nato foreign ministers said a year ago that they would come to Brussels to plan their reactions to a Polish crisis should the situation warrant it.

At that time Warsaw Pact troop manoeuvres near the Polish borders seemed so threatening that Nato cancelled all Christmas leave, and put the multinational naval force on the alert. This time no such steps have been taken, and Nato operational headquarters has simply been advised to listen to the news.

Radio Free Europe, the American station which claims that its Polish language service has a 70 per cent audience among adults in Poland, increased its output from 19 to 24 hours a day when news of the Polish crisis became known. Since then all its news and current affairs output has been systematically jammed. In contrast to a year ago, when the station broadcast without any problems.

The European Commission will also be studying developments closely, to see if it is still advisable to complete a food and industrial aid programme requested by Poland. This was expected to be ready before the end of the year, but it is now unlikely to be finished before the situation becomes clearer.

An 8,000-tonne Christmas gift of beef from the Community to Poland is, however, probably still going to be sent, although it could now be delayed.

## Walesa's oratory focused protests

By Richard Davy and Dessa Trevisan

The origins of the Polish crisis can be traced as far back into Polish history as one wants, but the present phase developed in the second half of the 1970s, when the misdeeds of Mr Giermek's regime started coming home to roost.

The crucial date is 1976, when strikes were put down by force. The result was to bring workers and intellectuals together in groups devoted to organizing pressure on the regime.

Ideas and information were exchanged through a flourishing unofficial press, so that when the strikes broke out in the Baltic ports in the summer of 1980 there was a network of contacts across the nation and widespread consensus on tactics.

Instead of talking to the streets and burning party buildings, or stripping party officials to their underpants, as happened on previous occasions, the workers stayed within the factory or shipyard gates and organized themselves for negotiation.

The initial cause of the strike at Gdansk was the dismissal of Anna Walentynowicz, a worker for 30 years who had been involved in opposition activity, but a mass of pent up grievances accumulated



The face, the moustache, the pipe: Lech Walesa with the press in Paris.

around this issue, and the strike spread.

It was at this early stage that an almost unknown, unemployed electrician named Lech Walesa climbed into shipyard and seized the confidence of the workers with his oratory.

By the end of August, 1980, to the astonishment of many concerned, the strike committee in Gdansk had negotiated and signed an agreement with the Government on a series of points including the setting up of an independent trade union, which then emerged as Solidarity, to be followed after more confrontations by Rural Solidarity.

The right to strike was guaranteed, the minimum wage increased, and a series of welfare measures introduced. Hundreds of similar agree-

ments were signed around the country.

Then began the long series of negotiations, confrontations and compromises which occupied the last 16 months. Mutual confidence waned and tempers became frayed as each side accused the other of bad faith.

Solidarity acquired 10 million members and sprouted many different factions, while the Communist Party's three million members became more and more demoralized and began to lift away, especially after the party congress last summer, which failed to achieve the promised reform of the party.

Then throughout last week, verbal warfare reached new heights. Statements by Solidarity leaders and angry government reaction all pointed to

the rift getting ever wider. The chance of negotiations or agreement seemed more remote than at any time since the crisis started.

Each side made public statements to the effect that they were now moving to confrontation. Solidarity accused the authorities of breaking agreements, the Government said the same about Solidarity, accusing its leadership of preparing to take over political power, of undermining economic reforms.

The authorities were clearly preparing the ground for this weekend's events. They did everything to blame the Solidarity leadership and used the mass media to present a picture to the Polish people. Tapes from a Solidarity meeting in Radom, claimed by the authorities to present incriminating evidence of political ambitions, were read over the radio three times in 24 hours. Mr Walesa was then quoted as saying: "Confrontation is inevitable." Later, a spokesman for Solidarity, Mr Marek Brunne, in a statement claimed that the quotes had been taken out of context.

By the end of last week the Government had completed its massive campaign in press that the Solidarity leadership was about to take over power. Prior to that, on Monday last, the Politburo had held a meeting on "the current political situation".

No further announcements were made, but most observers believe that the political decision to go ahead with martial law was taken then.

Throughout the week, efforts at conciliation were made as if the authorities still hoped for some last minute change of heart by Mr Walesa. He was the man they regarded as more moderate than some of the other national union leaders.

But Solidarity was in a belligerent mood, and Mr Walesa joined the radicals. Until then, he had never been attacked directly, but now the authorities singled him out for special criticism.

At this point, the Government clearly must have reached the conclusion that there was no hope of reaching a compromise. An announcement after a mid-week government meeting said: "It is hard to foresee the price of the political adventurism the leadership of Solidarity has opted for."

The Government then announced it would seek special parliamentary approval to ban strikes. But it said the emergency measures would apply only for the winter months until March 31.

## Both Germanies will try to find a solution

From Patricia Clough, Berlin, Dec 13

Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, discussed the situation in Poland at length with Herr Erich Honecker, the East German leader, here today, and said they hoped the Poles would settle their conflicts themselves.

West Germany would adhere strictly to the principle of non-interference, Herr Schmidt said, and was convinced Herr Honecker also respected Poland's sovereignty. The talks delayed the Chancellor's schedule by nearly 45 minutes.

The news from Poland reached Herr Schmidt in the early hours of the last day of his three-day visit to East Germany. This visit had already been postponed once because of the situation in Poland and once because of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. "Thank God it ended this time," the Chancellor remarked.

Herr Schmidt's senior advisers rejected suggestions that the events in Poland had come as a blow to the Chancellor in the middle of his talks with Herr Honecker. "On the contrary, the possibility to talk about it at length shows that the dialogue is continuing," they said. Both sides would try to use their influence to urge the Poles "in the right direction," they said.

In hindsight, it seemed that both sides had at least an inkling that something was going to happen in Poland. Informed sources said the two German leaders spent much of yesterday's meetings discussing the Polish question.

The almost unseemly haste with which the visit was arranged only three weeks after receiving the go-ahead

from President Brezhnev indicated that at least one side feared a fresh East-West freeze which could delay the summit once again. East European sources here said that something had been expected to happen on or around December 17 when Solidarity was planning a general strike.

Herr Schmidt will almost certainly have pointed out to Herr Honecker—and through him to the whole Communist block—that any invasion of Poland would destroy in a single blow most of what had been achieved for detente and disarmament in Europe.

He has doubtless explained an invasion would burden public opinion in America and Europe, effectively wipe out the peace movement and put paid to the United States-Soviet negotiations in Geneva for reducing medium-range nuclear weapons.

Herr Schmidt may have reminded his host of his warning earlier this year that West German credits would dry up if the new development were put down by force.

The news from Poland over West German radio, quickly spread around East Germany. But the few East Germans contacted by Western correspondents here did not appear unduly perturbed. "We will have to see what happens," one East German remarked.

A woman who worked for the East German television said there was a great interest among intellectuals in the Polish experiment but they had been forbidden to discuss it on pain of their jobs. If Solidarity was crushed "it will show that the time is not yet ripe for anything like that here either."

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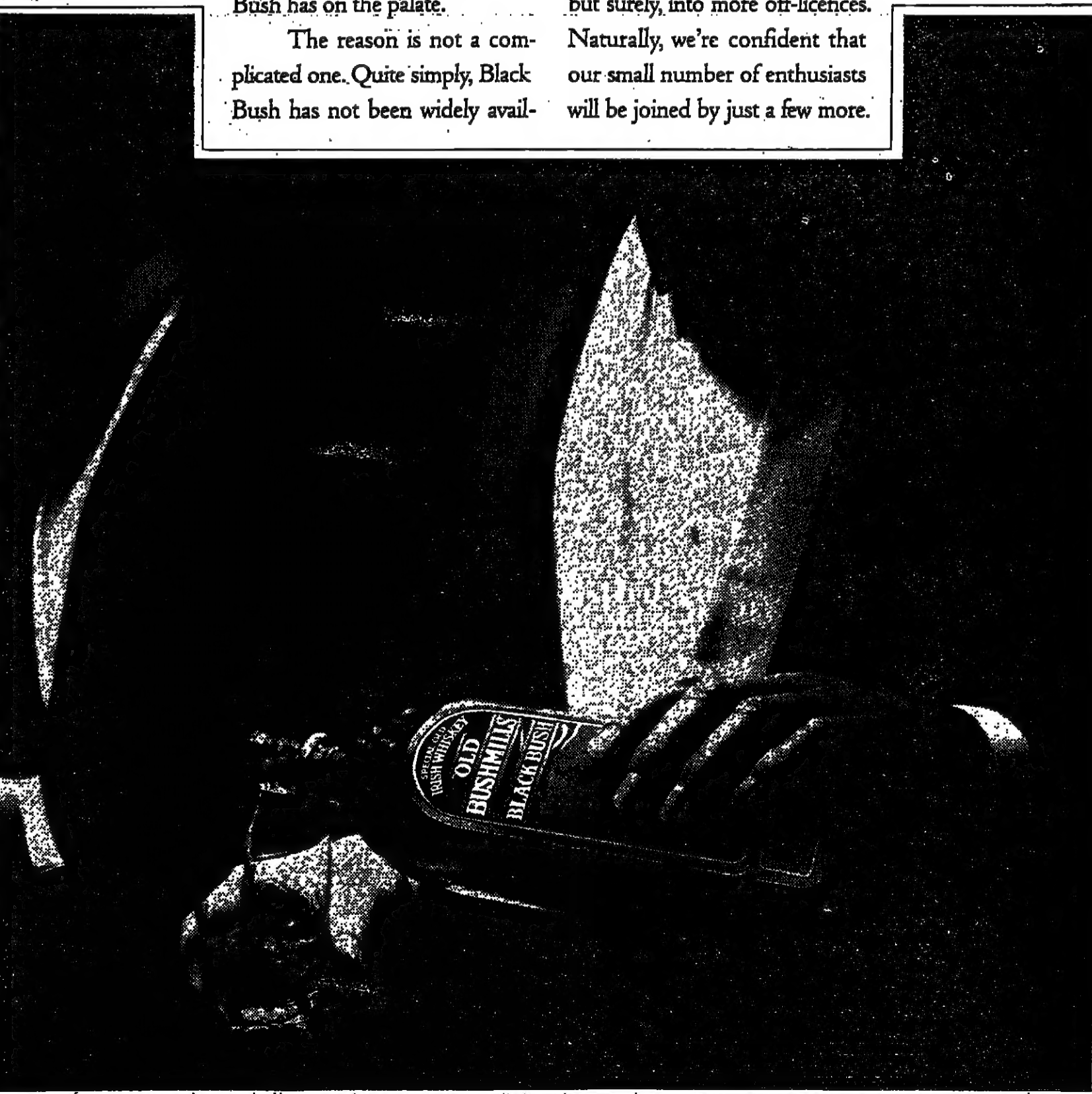
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## Polish blood must not be shed, Pope says

By Our Foreign Staff

The Pope appealed to his countrymen for a peaceful outcome to the latest Polish move. "No more Polish blood must be shed," he said, after reciting the Angelus at noon with a crowd of about 30,000 assembled in St Peter's Square.

"I recall what I said in September: No more Polish blood must be shed, because enough has already been spilt, particularly in the last war. All efforts must be made to build our homeland in peace," he said, directly addressing groups of Polish pilgrims. In view of the forthcoming 60th jubilee of the Madonna of Czestochowa, I intercede on behalf of Poland and all my fellow countrymen with her who has been given to the nation as its protection.

Brussels: Mr Alexander Haig said here that Poland had told Western diplomats that reforms would continue in Poland despite the government's crackdown on Solidarity.

The American Secretary of State told a press conference that the American Chargé d'Affaires in Warsaw had been assured by a senior Polish Foreign Office official that there would be no return to the pre-August 1980 situation when the government agreed to accept big reforms under pressure from Solidarity.

Moscow: Moscow radio said that the action in Poland was taken in response to the "anarchy facing the country" and "extremist actions of Solidarity leaders who are trying to take over the country."

The broadcast said that "a decision had been adopted to intern the extremist leaders of Solidarity and also members of illegal anti-socialist organizations." The report was later repeated in the Russian language on Soviet radio.

Tape initially carried a one-sentence announcement from Warsaw shortly after 9 am Moscow time and ran an ex-

panded account of the situation 90 minutes later.

Rome: Leaders of the Italian Communist Party condemned the military take-over in a tough statement that was certain to anger the Kremlin.

The directorate of West Europe's largest and most independent communist party met in emergency session yesterday and repeated its support for Solidarity.

Vienna: About 500 people, mainly Polish refugees, demonstrated outside a Polish church and the Polish embassy. There are officially some 26,000 Polish refugees in Austria who have applied for political asylum and about the same number are thought to be in the country privately.

Development in Poland have touched off a wave of protest. M. Claude Cheysson, the Foreign Minister said the French Government had no intention of doing anything. What was happening in Poland was an internal affair which must be settled by the Poles themselves.

Brussels: The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), the world's largest non-Communist trade union group, condemned the developments in Poland and called for the immediate release of the arrested officials of Solidarity.

Vienna: Czechoslovakia today became the first Soviet block country to welcome Poland's decision to introduce a state of emergency, saying the move demonstrated the effectiveness of the Polish state and party leadership.

Utrecht: A convoy of more than 150 lorries left here for Poland despite the state of siege there, to deliver more than 200,000 Christmas packages of supplies gathered by a private Dutch association.

How Moscow sees it, page 8







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THE ARTS

Television

An act of faith

If the ways of God are mysterious then the ways of families are by no means an open book. Graham Greene's new book, *The Potting Shed*, snatches at both themes and weds Yorkshire Television's choice last night to open its new series of *Celebrity Playhouse*, with Paul Scofield, Celia Johnson, Anna Massey and Maurice Denham to justify the series' title.

This is one of those Greene stories which, I feel, almost needs an introduction about pre-Vatican II Catholicism before one can fairly comprehend its twists and turns. What happened to James Callaghan in the potting shed was that he hanged himself after his rationalist father, had stepped on the bourgeois beliefs inculcated by his uncle, a Catholic priest and therefore a pariah in this secular family.

Apparently dead, the boy is raised to life like Lazarus after his uncle has offered the bargain to God that he will surrender the most valuable thing he has — his faith — if the boy lives. God appears to have accepted. The priest continues to practise without faith, the father's professional disbelief is damaged, and the boy, left without memory of the event, is made a family outcast so that he can emulate his previous convictions without being discredited by the sight of a walking miracle round the house.

We come to it when father is dying thirty years on. The family are gathered round his priestly uncle and they hope the walking miracle, to ease him from the mortal coil. It is not to be so easy and the middle-aged miracle turns up to try to discover the secret of the potting shed and his obsession.

It is a play full of angst that needs more than the usual effort to suspend disbelief, but it is admirably acted. Paul Scofield, who resists television for years at a time, moved from psychological turmoil to a sort of reasonable hope, with predictable ease.

Celia Johnson, as his mother, Anna Massey, as his former wife, and Maurice Denham as the priest temporarily diverted from the Holy Spirit to a more liquid variety, gave excellent support, but the play, directed by David Hare, remained strangely quaint.

McBride Reading Crime, by Bruce Crowther, in Granada's last offering in its *Knife Edge* series on Saturday Night. The end of this run of thriller plays will not leave a sense of deprivation. This play dealt with three university students, facing unemployment of course, who cook up a crime, fall into the hands of professionals and come to grief.

There was an idea here somewhere but it was lost between stereotype characters and forced dialogue. Wherever three students are gathered together these days one is learning towards some kind of political extremism or other. A concomitant of the extremism appears to be a casual attitude towards copulation that makes love as unattractive as rifle drill and, frankly, I would be prepared to take it for granted rather than see it.

RBC's *Everyman* last night, which devoted itself to the results of a poll by the European Values Group about what everyone thinks of this or that, was rather pipped at the post, the results having appeared at some length in the press.

This "biggest-ever" poll is still going on, gathering impetus like a snowball. The British appear to be more ready to fight for their country than most, well-inclined towards the Almighty, and disapproving about adultery. As polls do not carry — as well they might — a warning that acceptance can damage your judgement, those who this morning feel their stiff upper lips more firmly in place might consider that attitudes as reflected by such investigations are rather like front rooms used to be in the north of England, for visitors only. The real answers are often kept out of sight.

Dennis Hackett

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Symposium

Dramatic spirit that still lives

Of all Stanislavsky's disciples, Vsevolod Meyerhold was the most precocious and, in ways that have only recently come to light, the most influential. Charles Marowitz has just returned from the Meyerhold Symposium sponsored by Stockholm's Teater Schahrazad, the first celebration of this director's work outside the Soviet Union.

Although a protégé of Stanislavsky, Meyerhold was the most precocious and, in ways that have only recently come to light, the most influential. Charles Marowitz has just returned from the Meyerhold Symposium sponsored by Stockholm's Teater Schahrazad, the first celebration of this director's work outside the Soviet Union.

For about three years, he was the most powerful man in the Russian theatre. His "constructivist" productions in the Twenties, his advocacy of Mayakovsky (he mounted the first Soviet play, *Mayakovsky's Mystery Bouffe*, in 1918) and his breathtaking reconstructions of classics such as *Hamlet* and *Oedipus Rex* made him a one-man aesthetic revolution in the Twenties and Thirties. But, with Lenin's death and the encroachment of Stalinism, his fortunes began to wane. At the 1934 Congress of the Union of Theatre Artists, he was denounced as a bourgeois formalist, and his work was condemned as "bourgeois and decadent".

Criticism against him, both from Stalinist hardliners and from reformist rivals using the "new dispensation" as a way of settling old debts, began to appear on all sides. On June 13, 1938, Meyerhold was scheduled to speak at the All-Union Conference of Stage Directors when he was arrested to admit "the errors of his ways". According to one account, the recantation never took place and, instead, Meyerhold made a courageous defence of his life as an artist. According to later accounts, he finally bent the knee and performed an entirely uncharacteristic act of contrition. The facts remain inconclusive, despite recently uncovered "records" in the Soviet archives. What is indisputable is that he was arrested immediately after the conference and disappeared from view. The general consensus is that he died before a firing squad in 1940, although there are persistent accounts of him surviving in a labour camp until 1942, even directing plays there in some weird parody of the *Marat/Sade*.

The central figure of the Stockholm symposium was Alexander Fevral'sky, one of Meyerhold's assistants and theatre secretaries who is most responsible for having preserved the records of the director's work and ideas. In the now-familiar Soviet mode, Fevral'sky, who looks somewhat like a cryptic General, told us that he had been the "great master" with anecdotes and reminiscences which were respectfully without being reverent, but, as it were, only putting gloss on what is already known about the man. He was not to be drawn on political matters and was clearly there only as the official custodian of the legend.

The multidisciplinary commentary on the director from a variety of academic sources, appeared by contrast with the appearance of Meyerhold himself in Prokofiev's 1928 film *The White Eagle*, where the master of the Anti-Naturalistic style was paired with Kocharov, one of Stanislavsky's leading Moscow actors. If it was a contest between the Psychological and Theatrical schools of acting (which it was not), the mugging, mannered, thoroughly outrageous Meyerhold won hands down.

The arcane mysteries of bio-mechanics, Meyerhold's elaborate physical training technique, were heavily discussed — most lucidly perhaps by Mel Gordon and Alma Law of New York, who have done much practical work to reconstruct the theories of the Twentieth Swedish-based companies such as Baruch Circus and the sponsoring Teater Schahrazad showed the Meyerhold influence to be bristlingly alive; the former in exercises which grew out of the work of The Living Theatre and the latter in a panoramic collage of Meyerhold's life entitled *Doctor Dappertutto* (which was the director's early nom-de-plume).

One of the most riveting expositions came from England's Nick Worrall, who vividly evoked Meyerhold's mise-en-scene for *The Inspector-General*, making the kind of cross-connections between theory and practice that prove just how much the theatre owes to the academic intelligence. But, for the most part, there was a lot of historical and biographical rehashing from men whose admiration of Meyerhold's achievement was in no way enlivened by a similarly original cast of mind.

Meyerhold was officially rehabilitated in 1955 but given the ambivalence that attaches to Soviet resuscitations, he remained obscure for another fifteen years — lovingly researched and rhapsodized on by a handful of scholars and directors in the West. But his influence still pervades Russia and was most noticeable in Robert Sturges's *Richard III* (which the Ruzhavi Company of Georgia, seen in Edinburgh and then at the Round House in London). For an influence closer to home, there is no need to look further than Brook's gymnastic, white-walled *Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Clearly, if ours is a theatre that applauds Brecht and Grotowski, the experiments of Peter Brook in Paris and Peter Weiss in Berlin, the kinetic vitality of companies such as La Mama and The Living Theatre, then Meyerhold must wedge his way into the syllabuses of universities and drama schools. For by his insistence that the theatre must be a showplace for meaningful physicality for refreshed and restructured classics, and for new plays which reflect contemporary ideas not stultified in conventional forms, Meyerhold is the rampaging spirit of the twentieth century — much more so than his mentor Stanislavsky or any of the self-styled Method disciples who invoke his name. The spirit of Meyerhold, and it certainly pervaded the four crowded days of that breathless symposium, is more a zealot than a polemicist; it is more the prevailing spirit of the present than a lot of murky rumblings from the past.

They are brothers, reflecting two sides of Shepard himself, Austin a middle-class screen-writer, and Lee a wild vagabond who lives in the desert searching for an existence out of dog-fighting and petty crime. Coming together after years apart, they are first seen jockeying for status on the neutral territory of their mother's house.

On one side, the timid conformist with a flourishing career, on the other the self-reliant outcast with nothing in the world. The first round goes to Austin when he wearily hands over the car keys to get Lee out of the house.

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Meyerhold after the Revolution: the power of Russian theatre

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Theatre

Fight between equals

True West

Cottesloe

"So they take off after each other straight into an endless black prairie. . . . And the one who's chasing doesn't know where the other one is taking him. And the one who's being chased doesn't know where he's going. And the same goes for the kind of play Sam Shepard used to write, saturated in the romance of the American West, and as lacking in any sense of destination as a drop-out hitchhiker."

*True West*, which strikes me as Shepard's best work since *The Tooth of Crime*, is not like that. It is rich in its own vein of New Frontier poetry, the ghostly presence of a heroic past lumbering behind the tidy Californian suburbs and throughway motels, but it also holds the stage as a robustly plotted piece of naturalism. Firmly though he put the boot into Hollywood in *Angel City* and again in this play, it seems that the place taught him something about storytelling.

Take the opening chunk of synopsis. It evokes the forces at work under the domestic surface; it is offered as the kind of garbage the lunatic studios might snap up; and it tells you something about the nature of the two main characters.

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house for a vital meeting with his producer.

In the second round Lee comes storming back in aid conference, with a stolen television set, and bulldozes the producer into a dawn golf date at which he knocks his brother out of the ring by selling an idea of his own at the expense of Austin's cherished script.

Austin swiftly takes revenge by refusing to collaborate, leaving his illiterate rival to confront the typewriter alone for a long night's writer's block. First Austin ribbon-roots of the machine in handfulls and finally dismembering it with a stubby golf club.

The venomously comic reversal is completed with Austin's return to make breakfast with large consignment of stolen toasters. Each brother envies the other; and with the unexpected arrival of the mother they move in, as Ned Chaillet said of the New York production, for a "primal contest of dominance".

Each phase of the comedy is beautifully prepared and overflowing with unexpected invention. John Schlesinger's production precisely locates the action in a seemingly realistic environment where anything can happen, and where Great Dick's cluttered living room looks out on a limitless void. The show is the occasion for a major gladiatorial comic encounter between Bob Hoskins and Anne Stacey.

Until half time it seems to be a walkover for the sun-blackened space-filling Hoskins, who dominates the stage no less in enraged literary frustration than in plunging his brother into writhing embarrassment and fear of his life. But with the collapse of his hopes, and a bottle of whisky, a new Sher emerges, a vicious, hilariously funny saboteur every bit as lethal as his villainous opponent. You cannot say he exceeds Hoskins in sheer danger, but it is a fight between equals.

Irving Wardle

Lady in the Dark

Nottingham

*Lady in the Dark* is a legend of its own kind. It brought Moss Hart together with Ira Gershwin and Kurt Weill to tell a musical story of psychoanalysis in the glamorous world of fashion magazines. It gave Gertrude Lawrence a great personal success during the Second World War and made the names of Victor Mature and Danny Kaye. It was never professionally performed in England.

Its most legendary moment was the ridding off of a string of names of Russian composers by the young Danny Kaye in the song called "Tchaikowsky", which has become a competition song for fast-tongued singers. Mr Kaye still holds the record, bettering his speed every year in gratitude to the syllables that made him a star. Crispin Thomas's production at the Nottingham Playhouse confronts that legend by an total surrender.

The names are pronounced, but without haste, and there is no risk that the song might steal the limelight from the star, as nearly happened with Gertrude Lawrence. Celeste Holm, in her British debut, is allowed to walk into the classic song which follows, "The Saga of Jenny", and softly sing "I say no", but Miss Holm's justified personal legend has already been sabotaged by an

inadequate microphone which rustles and echoes until she fails to amplify clearly until the very last song, "My Ship", when suddenly she is audible and entrancing.

She has been chasing the show and the chase of the song on the psychiatrist's couch since the beginning of the show and finding them is a neat dramatic (and romantic) demonstration of the success of her analysis. The poor amplification, of a voice which now needs electrical assistance, could make it seem as if she was seeking an efficient sound man.

Pieces were falling off Hugh Durrant's elegant setting all evening and technically the show and one of those nights that make actors cringe years after the event. The pity is that such things do distract and disrupt the clever, economical development of the story, reaching back to the childhood experiences which block a woman's emotional life. For Miss Holm's character.

Weill's music, despite its stringent lines, has a lush seductiveness that develops a tension perfectly suited to Hart's blend of a nervous breakdown and romance. There are three love stories that Miss Holm must play and there the casting lets her down.

The show comes more to life when it is left to the women on Miss Holm's fashion magazine, with a performance by Cristina Avery which is solid brass.

Ned Chaillet

Concerts

Melodic intensity

Stern/Wolf

Festival Hall

Bartokians should rejoice that the master's *Violin Sonata No 1* is now firmly placed in the repertoire after suffering a step-child status for several decades. It made a splendid centrepiece to Isaac Stern's recital. His interpretation was interesting and somewhat unexpected, for he approached the work via Bartok's Austro-German antecedents rather than as an essay in the modernism of its time (1921) or in the use of folk material.

The effect of this was to smooth the music's corners and intensify its melodic flow in a way reminiscent of some of Bartok's own recorded performances of his works. The initial rhythmic complexities of the *Finale* were beautifully precise, as were the shaping and direction of the *Adagio's* high, free, melodic rhapsodising. The concluding *Allegretto* was a commanding account of Bartok's terror of a keyboard part.

Especially in its first movement, Brahms's *Sonata, Op 78*, has an intimate stance, a warning that acceptance can damage your judgement, those who this morning feel their stiff upper lips more firmly in place might consider that attitudes as reflected by such investigations are rather like front rooms used to be in the north of England, for visitors only. The real answers are often kept out of sight.

Dennis Hackett

"Fair blows the wind from France", they called their programme; but it took the score to persuade us of the cordiality of the entente between the French and English baroque and contemporary music presented by the Sheba Sound. Gordon Langford's artful arrangement for this group of two oboes, bassoon and harpsichord of Daquin's *Le Coucou* (bassoon as wandering voice) was one of the most engaging pieces in an ostensibly imaginative but ultimately tedious and undernourishing programme.

It is not that the group lack enterprise: they had commissioned three new works. Nor is it that they lack artistry: their playing was vivid and well blended, their spoken commentaries were terse and to the point. But too much of their music was either of the sort that gives more pleasure to the performer than to the listener, or of very limited curiosity value.

If some Rameau harpsichord variations were in the first category, then the

Opera

Il trovatore

Covent Garden

Dame Joan Sutherland has recorded Verdi's *Il trovatore*, but not until now sung it on stage here. For her welcome return to the opera house whence she set off round the world the Royal Opera had assembled a distinguished cast round her, likewise mostly singing their roles here for the first time. Elena Obraztsova indeed, a familiar and eminent singer on records and television, was actually making her Covent Garden debut.

Visconti's production was a distinguished achievement 17 years ago and, several of Sanjurjo's sets still look handsome and striking, notably those in the gypsy encampment and beneath the walls of Castellor, though the original colour schemes have vanished with the advent of new costumes brought by their wearers. The Visconti style is but faintly and seldom discernible.

The *Leonora of Trovatore* is a stately, passive heroine, doomed to suffer through out. Sutherland plays her so and sings her music accurately, with some nobility, and clearer Italian words than was her work, but with less brilliance and less pathos than I expected. The voice has become darker in timbre, the chest notes clear but not strong; as fine and eloquent as anything in her performance, the song alternative of the long, tense, climbing phrase which launches the *Finale* ensemble, "Prima che d'altri viverei". At two places in the music, the sang alternative of the long, tense, climbing phrase which launches the *Finale* ensemble, "Prima che d'altri viverei".

A highlight of the evening was the abduction ensemble outside the convent, "O doglio e posso crederlo", both spacious and exciting, with Yuri Mazurok to partner

fusion of idea, musical realization and dramatic recreation. In his "experiment" in dramatic music in prose, Mussorgsky creates an astonishingly fresh and flexible musical reproduction of everyday speech and of Gogol's tellingly fragmented sentences, his shifting intonations and inflections nicely caught in Stephen Oliver's effortlessly articulated translation.

As the music draws out the lines, Mussorgsky's of Gogol's characters without ever caricaturing. Ronald Eyre's direction, in its deft timing, its spare and witty use of business, drew from each actor a portrayal as speedy, economic and purposeful as the best cartoon line. As the bachelor Podkolyostin Richard Stuart was facially and vocally supplied, every passing temptation,

and stubbornly resistant to the matchmaking of Fyolka (Anne-Marie Owens), the urging of friend Kochukov (Michael Bulman) and the gaudiness of servant Stepan (Richard Wigmore).

Every note was elegantly and imaginatively touched in by Lionel Friend's direction of Divertimenti's stylish playing of Oliver Knussen and Colin Matthews's orchestration of the short score — true, Mussorgsky, gently impetuous with their own fancy. Held together visually in David Blight's costly realistic set, as compact and detailed as the score, the performance revealed one strong answer, in 1983 and in 40 minutes, to many of the questions still plaguing contemporary music-dramatists.

Hilary Finch

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# The man who spreads the Tony Benn gospel in Scotland

هكذا من الأصل





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## LIGHTS OUT IN WARSAW

General Jaruzelski is making one last desperate bid to save communist power in Poland. He has reached this point as a result of two major failures. The most important has been the failure of the party apparatus over the past fifteen months to seize the torch of reform and run forward with it. This would have been the only way of outbidding Solidarity for leadership of the nation. Instead, the party has had to be jostled forward, giving ground reluctantly at every point, thereby persuading the public that pressure must be continuously mobilised against it. The inevitable result has been that the party has gradually crumbled.

The second failure has been the failure of Solidarity to maintain its own coherence and discipline. This is a more forgivable failure because Solidarity was not created or organised to run the country. It came into existence as a trade union and protest movement whose aim was to put pressure on the government. Recently it has put too much pressure on the regime by demanding, among other things, free local elections in February, which the communists would certainly have lost. This was a failure of judgment but one which was almost inevitable when the movement found itself sucked into such a vast area of power vacated by the regime.

The army began to move into the vacuum some time ago. Now General Jaruzelski has gambled on something approaching a total occupation. Although he says in his proclamation that responsibility still rests with the civilian administration he seems in fact to be introducing military rule on a pattern familiar in other parts of the world — a "military council of national salvation" steps in

to save the nation from disaster while promising to restore political rule as soon as possible.

Will he succeed? At the moment it looks as if there is only one condition on which he can do so, and that is if he can persuade some moderate leaders of Solidarity to persuade the country that he really is more determined than the civilian rulers have ever been to preserve and develop the reforms. He implies in his proclamation that this is his aim. He has also talked an important signal by arresting Mr. Giersek, the former party leader, and some of his associates. This is a concession to a long-standing public demand that those responsible for the crisis should be brought to justice. It conveys the significant message that General Jaruzelski is not putting all the blame on Solidarity but is accepting that the party must take its share. Therefore party members must not interpret the new measures as an attempt to restore the *status quo ante*. Rather, the army will be a cleansing agent, sweeping through the inertia and corruption of the administration at the same time as putting down attempts to destroy the system from outside.

While many people would like to believe in this, scepticism is now deep in their bones. Even if Mr. Walesa can be persuaded to support the army it is far from certain that he will be listened to. Although he still has great popular appeal, the local organisations of Solidarity have been growing increasingly radical, and the population as a whole is weary, angry, frustrated and hungry. It is extremely difficult to predict how it will react. Over the past few years a new

element of pragmatic realism has seemed to be coming to the fore in Poland, but the old suicidal romanticism of the Poles has not vanished altogether. It could still drive resistance beyond the point of no return.

If it does, General Jaruzelski will surely feel obliged to use force. He has a profound antipathy towards doing so, but he would probably feel there was no choice. He would start by using the armed security police. They would probably be willing to shoot because they are specially trained and motivated for this type of work. They do not have the intimate contact with society which the conscript army has, and they probably see their future as more closely tied to the preservation of a certain type of regime. But there are not enough of them to put down nationwide resistance. Everything would therefore depend on whether a limited show of force would have an exemplary effect. If it did not, the next line of defence would be the army.

The country would then enter an area of even greater uncertainty. Most of the soldiers are ordinary Poles who share the experiences, aims and feelings of those against whom they would be asked to shoot. It is highly probable that they would not shoot. It is also well within the bounds of possibility that if the Russians moved in to do their dirty work they would be readier to shoot Russians than to shoot their own people. At this point the imagination begins to falter in the face of a disaster which might well move out of anyone's control. General Jaruzelski clearly believes that saving the regime is synonymous with saving the nation. That is now the central issue.

## TRUST THE PEOPLE

Mr. Bruce Douglas-Mann, the MP for Merton, Mitcham and Morden, is following a somewhat well-trodden path in resigning from the Labour Party and seeking to join the Social Democrats. Twenty six other MPs have taken that course before him. But he is unique in that he intends not just to move to the Social Democrats benches in the House of Commons, but then to resign his seat and fight a by-election.

This has upset the Social Democrats at both national and local level. He is thought to be rather presumptuous in taking it for granted that he would be the SDP candidate in a by-election. To make matters worse, he is suspected of blackmailing the party into accepting him as its candidate. But perhaps his most grievous sin is to be acting in a way that casts the founding fathers of the party in a less than heroic light. If Mr. Douglas-Mann feels he is under an obligation to be freshly endorsed by the electorate before sitting in the Commons as an SDP member, why did the rest of them not go back to the voters when they set up the party earlier

this year? Could their appreciation of constitutional niceties possibly have been disturbed by the fear of defeat?

Mr. Douglas-Mann's explanation is that he is acting differently because he starts from a different position. He fought the last election as an anti-Marketier but now believes that Britain should remain a member of the European Community. This is an issue of critical importance to the country and is one on which the SDP has placed particular emphasis. So there is some force in Mr. Douglas-Mann's contention that he is changing more than his party. It would be wrong to be dogmatic about constitutional proprieties here. There are sufficient precedents to justify other Social Democrat MPs staying in the Commons, without bothering about by-elections, after crossing the floor. But other precedents support Mr. Douglas-Mann. He is proposing to do precisely what Mr. Taverne did at Lincoln in 1973. No MP should be deterred from taking the more rigorous line; indeed, he should always be encouraged.

David Wood

## A last look at Strasbourg

This week I take my leave of the European Parliament after attending to its affairs for nine years, and by chance the programme for the plenary session (to use the official phrase) is uncommonly inviting. Mrs. Thatcher will address the chamber on Wednesday and become only the second prime minister to do so during her country's presidency.

On Thursday, Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, will report on the modest achievements and the more notable non-achievements of the Community during the United Kingdom's six-month presidency of the Council of Ministers. Much of the rest of the time will be spent on the Community's budget for 1982, the one area of decision where the parliament has authentic if limited power, at least in theory. Meanwhile, behind the scenes, the campaign of Sir James Scott-Hopkins, Herr Egon Klepsch, and Mr. Pieter Dankert to succeed Mme Simone Veil as president will reach their rather bitter climax.

In the nine years that have passed since Britain joined the Community, there have, of course, been three outstanding developments: the transformation of the old delegated parliament into a directly elected parliament in 1979, the beginning of the second wave of Community enlargement a year ago when Greece took its place and the beginning of the historic struggle for the parliament to control the Community purse by increasing its power over a budget proposed by the Commission and finally

settled by the Council of Ministers. Since this is the crucial budget week, let us begin a retrospect by discussing Parliament's ability to settle, or influence, how Community resources are to be spent. It is astonishing to look back five years, to the arrival of Mr. Christopher Tugendhat as a Brussels commissioner, and remember what a relatively uncontroversial subject parliament until then made of the budget. Indeed as a junior incoming commissioner, Mr. Tugendhat was given the budget portfolio because all his seniors saw more scope for their abilities and ambitions elsewhere. Then, almost suddenly, the old nominated Parliament began to exploit a new opportunity: parliament won the power to reject the budget, lock stock and barrel, and a say about non-obligatory spending.

Unfortunately, like the other scant formal powers of the parliament, it was an unusable or self-defeating ultimate deterrent. If Parliament defied the Council of Ministers and threw out the budget, it merely meant that the Community lived from month to month on the basis of the preceding year's budget, according to the "twelfth" rule. And parliament was fighting to increase spending, especially on social and regional policies, usually at the expense of the Common Agricultural Policy, which is earmarked as compulsory expenditure. Nevertheless, every budget since 1978 has been bitterly contested by parliament, and one was actually rejected (though ineffectually).

The struggle will continue this year, with the parliament trying to add to community expenditure, and the Council of Ministers cutting back. The Council look like winning in the end once more. In Strasbourg this week it may be all sound and fury signifying little, but not quite nothing. It is fair to say that the European Parliament will not count of age and be capable of helping to promote the grand

Mr. Douglas-Mann should have no automatic right to be the SDP candidate in a by-election, but there is a presumption that a sitting MP who transfers to the party before the end of this year will be the candidate next time. It has been agreed with the Liberals that those who are sitting as Liberal or SDP candidates at the beginning of 1982 will be recognised as alliance candidates provided they are adopted by their respective parties; and the draft SDP constitution specifies that a general meeting of the area party shall be called to decide if a sitting member should be endorsed. If he is rejected then there shall be a ballot of all members of the area party.

It would be reasonable for Mr. Douglas-Mann to be asked at such a meeting whether, if he were not chosen, he would support another SDP candidate. But he has a better claim to represent the Social Democrats than some others who have preceded him into the party. The SDP would have most to gain and least to lose by endorsing him. They should give him full support in a by-election.

Europeanist policies it so fondly talks about, until it wins more power over the Community purse. Yet there are Europeanists, as well as the growing number of communists, who would look askance at any such objective.

The national governments of the Ten, not least West Germany and the United Kingdom, are never slow to grieve that financially there are winners and losers within the Community, and the losers are never going to allow Strasbourg to increase a domestic tax burden that they themselves are trying to curb or cut. It would be a brave Europeanist politician who set out to argue that French MEPs should have the right to levy taxes on the British, or vice versa. Taxation, like charity, begins at home.

Nor is it a simple answer, often though it is heard in Strasbourg, to say that desirable urban industrial and social policies should be financed out of savings on the costs of the CAP. For the French and Irish Republics the CAP itself, despite its anomalies and distortions, is a social and regional policy, though less so now than when farmers were first given the lion's share of Community resources. Beyond that, Sir Henry Plumb, former president of the MEPs and now chairman of the Parliamentary agricultural committee, can show with chapter and verse that leaving aside overseas aid, CAP expenditure represents not 70 per cent, as is usually claimed, but less than 50 per cent of the Community budget.

All in all, the last nine years in Strasbourg have made me marvel at the anti-Marketier's tireless protests against a delusory loss of domestic sovereignty to Europe. Sovereignty still resides in the men forming the Council of Ministers. If necessary wielding their power of veto; and the European parliament, growing promisingly as it has, is still only at the beginning of a long, long trail a winding onto the land of Europeanist dreams.

## Communion with Rome?

From the Bishop of Birmingham

Sir, The letter of Bishops Moorman and Knapp-Fisher (December 5) deserves some response. It is indeed true that "we should become, and be seen to be, one church", although happily it is not true that Christians now "constitute but a small part of the world's population". It is, however, just as important that Christians should be, and be seen to be, people of integrity who are dedicated to the truth as they understand it. On this vital aspect of the Christian life the bishops are strangely silent.

With others I do not believe (and I would hold that the evidence is on our side) that the Bishop of Rome can properly lay claim to infallibility. I do not believe that he can legitimately lay claim to universal jurisdiction. I do not believe that a Christian should be required to hold *de fide* that the Blessed Virgin Mary bodily ascended to heaven. The three reports of the Anglican/Roman Catholic International Commission, following on the Malta report, show a very striking convergence of belief between the two communions on other doctrines, but not on these (although I note that the findings of the Malta report have not been officially endorsed by the Roman Catholic Church).

Like others, I yearn for closer communion with my Roman Catholic brothers and sisters with whom so much can be shared in common. But how can I deny what I believe to be true? It would be equally wrong for Roman Catholics to be asked to deny what they hold to be true, and the present Pope has to date not shown much liking for doctrinal pluralism, however well-founded some of us may think this to be in our New Testament sources.

I hope and pray that the early awaited final report of ARCC will find some honourable way out of this apparent impasse. But to suggest that we "postpone entering into agreements with other churches" (with whom we have had far closer relationships over the centuries than with Rome) because these "would inevitably draw us away from what is bound to be the coming great church" is an extraordinary statement, on two counts.

First, if Rome is already having discussions with Methodist and others with a view to "establishing that one great church to which we all look", why should our prior agreement with them be a hindrance to its coming? Secondly, the theological implications of any projected agreement with Rome are of less account than the more fundamental differences between Rome and Canterbury on papal and Marian dogmas.

Yours faithfully,  
THOMAS BIRMINGHAM,  
Bishop of Birmingham,  
Old Church Road,  
Harborne,  
Birmingham,  
December 6.

## Bukovsky view

From Mr. David Markham

Sir, I should like to comment briefly on my friend Vladimir Bukovsky's article (December 4) "Better Red than dead is not good enough".

Because of Soviet infiltration into some peace groups, he seems to suggest that the entire peace movement is phoney. I know that life-long pacifists, as distinct from what he calls "right-wing people" and "peace-lovers", will not feel injured and offended by Vladimir's angry strictures: he has the right to be angry and suspicious about Soviet propaganda — by no means confined to the peace movement — as I know from my own experience in the past.

The threatened use of genocidal weapons is morally indefensible and practically senseless.

Both sides know this and both sides cling to it. Meanwhile, the civilian populations are blackmailed into a resigned acceptance of the inevitable. Only the people on both sides, who have nothing to lose but their lives, can avert the terrible results of their own governments' folly.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID MARKHAM,  
Cottage,  
Colchester, Essex,  
Hartfield, Sussex.

## Science and Darwin

From Dr. David Ridge

Sir, The Evolutionist versus Creationist debate shows all signs of getting out of hand through impetuous use of terms. Sir Fred Hoyle (feature, December 7) may well be right that the State of Arkansas defines "evolution science" as strict Darwinism, but a lot has been learned since Darwin's time. Evolution, as contrasted with Special Creation, means descent with modification; it means the production of new species from old species by small steps. It means no more.

How small is small? What constitutes a new species? Is natural variation enough to produce sufficient change? Can larger changes be directed by external (or internal) factors? These are questions for rational debate, illuminated by the findings of systematic study. My own wonder at the diversity of living things is matched only by my wonder at the uniformity of the molecular mechanisms by which they all work. It smacks of a paucity of imagination in any supposed creator.

Karl Popper's definitions (Mr. Leach, December 6) are, as usual, complete red herrings. Yours faithfully,  
DAVID RIDGE,  
3 Countess Road,  
London NW5,  
December 7.

## Mapping constituency boundaries

From the Secretary to the Boundary Commission for England

Sir, It may be that unintentionally Dr. Marshall has misled some voters by his letter published on December 10. He states that the Government has been "using every opportunity to accelerate the current review by the Boundary Commission". The facts are that the commission is aware of the anomalies created when the local government boundaries were reorganised in 1974 and of the large disparities between the electorates of the present constituencies. The commission therefore wish to report as soon as possible, and the earliest possible date appears to be at the end of 1982.

The Home Office Ministers have not set this commission a target date for submitting its report. This commission has long been aware of the anomalies created when the local government boundaries were reorganised in 1974 and of the large disparities between the electorates of the present constituencies. The commission therefore wish to report as soon as possible, and the earliest possible date appears to be at the end of 1982.

Yours faithfully,  
G. P. BARNES,  
Secretary,  
Boundary Commission for England,  
St Catherine's House,  
10 Kingsway, WC2.

It may be relevant to recall that the commission works upon electoral quotas and electorates determined at the time of the investigation of the review, in the case of 1974, it is obvious that the longer the review now takes the more likely it is to be completely out of date before it even comes into effect.

The number of staff in the secretariat of the English Commission has been increased recently, because there has been more work to be done. The Order implementing revisions to the district wards following the Local Government Boundary Commission's review was made in February 1981 and the number of constituencies being drawn in that review, accelerated during the last two years. The Parliamentary Boundary Commission were only then able to proceed with their review of the parliamentary constituencies in those counties.

With more counties being processed, therefore, there was much more work to be done and more clerical staff were needed. Similarly with mapping and advertising costs to be met for more counties the cash limit for expenditure had to be increased.

It is true that a lot of local inquiries are being held at this time. Having published their provisional recommendations for the last of a number of counties earlier this year, the commission now have many inquiries which are required to hold inquiries. At this stage therefore most of the secretariat's resources are directed at making all the arrangements for local inquiries. The concentration of a number of inquiries during this period has increased the difficulties in

finding assistant commissioners who were free from other commitments to hold local inquiries and the number appointed was therefore recently brought back up to the number who were originally appointed.

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Yours faithfully,  
G. P. BARNES,  
Secretary,  
Boundary Commission for England,  
St Catherine's House,  
10 Kingsway, WC2.

From Mr. Tom Ellis, MP for Wrexham (Social Democrat)

Sir, The charge of undue governmental pressure on the Boundary Commission (Dr. Edmund Marshall, MP, Letter, December 10) is an example of the wrangling if not the allegations of gerrymandering which always seem to accompany the periodic constituency boundary reviews. An electoral system which would avoid the need for boundary changes would have much to commend it.

However, an even more unsatisfactory feature of the boundaries aspect of our electoral system is the artificiality with which the boundaries are drawn in the first instance. Ideally parliamentary constituencies, like local government areas, should correspond to natural social and political units. Indeed Parliament has partially recognised this principle in requiring the commissioners not to have constituencies straddling shire boundaries. The closer a constituency corresponds to its natural society then the closer will its member or members identify with it.

Unfortunately (except in a few cases) this is not possible with the present single-member constituencies while at the same time complying with the other important principle of broadly equal electorates per member.

Both these desirable features — avoiding boundary changes and having "natural" constituencies — can be achieved through multi-member constituencies.

Yours faithfully,  
TOM ELLIS,  
House of Commons,  
December 10.

## Engineering courses

From Professor Carl Hanson

Sir, I read with interest the letter from Mr. Douglas Doughty which appeared in your issue of December 4 but am concerned that this may give the impression of all undergraduate sandwich courses in engineering facing imminent disaster.

As one who has been responsible over many years for the operation of a thin sandwich course with a large intake, I would fully support his comments on the benefits of this form of engineering education and its popularity amongst both students and industry. I also appreciate how demoralising it must be for potential students when they experience great difficulty in securing sponsorship where this is required in order to follow such a course. However, I think there are two points which should be drawn to the attention of your readers.

Firstly, when seeking sponsorship at the start of a course one is asking an employer to take on a commitment for a four-year period, something which is obviously a problem at a time of great uncertainty. Secondly, it should be made clear that many departments do not expect students to obtain sponsorship.

Thus, in the case of my own

school, candidates are enrolled as college-based students with the understanding that the school will negotiate the industrial placements. These are handled on a year-to-year basis. This means any particular student will receive training in the different industrial concerns, thus giving a spectrum of experience, whilst a particular company is only asked to undertake a commitment to an immediate six-month period. This is typical of many departments.

It is true that the ease of placement of sandwich course students in industry represents a sensitive barometer to the economic climate of the country. The last year has presented more difficulties with our scheme than in earlier times, but we have still succeeded in maintaining our total commitment to the sandwich system.

Bearing in mind the difficulties which industry has faced, the loyalty shown by the majority of employers with whom we deal has been a tribute to the favour in which the scheme is held and I would like to record our indebtedness to them.

Yours faithfully,  
CARL HANSON,  
Schools of Chemical Engineering,  
University of Bradford,  
Bradford,  
West Yorkshire,  
December 4.

## Immigrant exiles

From Mr. Benedict Birnberg

Sir, As the season of good will approaches may I, through your columns, express my hope that the Home Secretary will relax the harshness of the immigration rules in favour of the small number of people in this country who have called themselves from tyrannical regimes in their home countries?

As an instance, there are numerous Iranians here, often elderly, with children or other relatives either settled or studying here. Many of these people fear a return to Iran either because they oppose Muslim fundamentalists, or because they served the Shah in some minor capacity, or simply because of the political and unpredictable state of affairs in Iran; but because of the rigidity of our immigration rules they cannot qualify for political asylum.

Most also have adequate financial resources but cannot qualify as persons of independent means, again because of the inflexible requirement of the rules that a capital of at least £100,000 and proof of a close connection with this country be shown and entry clearance obtained abroad.

These people would be no burden on us; indeed they have called themselves here and for the most part they only want a temporary sojourn.

In recent months I have handled quite a number of such hard cases in which the Minister of State has turned a deaf ear to pleas for compassion, and many MPs will have similar experiences. Britain has in the past prided

itself on being a tolerant haven for refugees. Can this Government, which professes to support the traditional virtues, not make a gesture towards these people? It would cost us nothing and the happiness and good will that would accrue would be enormous.

Yours faithfully,  
BENEDICT BIRNBERG,  
B. M. Birnberg & Co.,  
Solicitors,  
103 Borough High Street, SE1,  
December 7.

## Bishop's appointment

From Mr. John Thornton

Sir, I write to protest at the poor quality of your report of the appointment of the new Bishop of Worcester.

You spell his name wrongly four times, you wrongly refer to him as Dr. you tell us that he has two children when he has four, he was Rector of South Ormsby, not Vicar, Bishop Hatfield of Mashonaland was his curate not just a guest and in four places your typesetters have run words together. Virtually no fact is correct.

You owe an apology to Bishop Goodrich and to your readers, and I trust we shall see one.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN THORNTON,  
Alburey House,  
Harleford,  
Norfolk,  
December 6.

We apologise for the errors in this report.

## Playing rugby in the snow

From the Secretary of the Rugby Football Union

Sir, I wish to refer to the Sports Editor's article on December 10 in which he criticises the Rugby Football Union for failing to clear the pitch on Tuesday for the Varsity Match.

It indicates a remarkable lack of understanding of the problems and is typical of one who has no responsibility for whatever action is taken.

It also has an advantage over Mr. Keith in that I have the advice of some of the most experienced and knowledgeable groundstaff in the country. I was on the pitch at 6.15 am soon after the snow started and at first there was every hope that the large wet flakes of snow which were falling would melt quickly and all would be well. Unfortunately, it became colder and by 9 am there were two inches of solid snow on the pitch.

A lengthy consultation with the Meteorological Office established that the snow would continue until 11.30 am and the temperature would drop still further. They proved right and by 12 noon there was four to five inches of snow on the pitch and the temperature was well below freezing.

The parts of the ground which had been cleared to expose the lines was hardening and there was a danger that exposing more ground would result in an unplayable pitch.

It will be recalled that this happened in 1952 when a similar situation arose prior to the England v Ireland match and after clearing half the pitch it was discovered that it was rapidly becoming frozen and possibly unplayable. However, the match was completed with half the pitch under snow and the other half a frozen slippery and dangerous surface.

The case of the Vale of Llangrann is entirely different and Mr. W. I. did have 24 hours in which to decide what to do and even then it took 60 men six hours to clear it.

It is calculated that there was over 400 tons of snow on the playing surface at Twickenham on Tuesday, a somewhat daunting task for the hundreds of volunteers which he offers. Furthermore, to use his words, his imagination obviously does not stretch to how one gets rid of the snow once it has been "worked towards the middle". I would suggest that the damage caused to the pitch by these willing enthusiasts would have rendered it unplayable for some time.

I believe that we took the correct action and witnessed a most exciting match with the players on both sides deserving every credit for playing the quality of football they did in appalling conditions. Yours faithfully,  
R. H. G. WEIGHILL, Secretary,  
The Rugby Football Union,  
Twickenham,  
December 11.

## Far from clear

From Mr. John Boulton

Sir, Concerning the query about ice cubes in plastic bags (December 4) the following simple experiment was performed: Four plastic film bags, two clear, two opaque, and one of each kind perforated with pinholes, were loaded each with six ice cubes and left in the deep freeze for 20 hours. The result was: clear film, cubes stuck solid. Clear film pinholed, cubes separate or easily separated. Opaque film, cubes stuck solid. Opaque film pinholed, cubes easily separated.

Repeated in the kitchen refrigerator the experiment gave the same answers as in the deep freeze.

The bags used appear to be made of polyethylene film. What result might be given by any other of the film-forming substances which might be used for making freezer bags is not known. But, clearly, the coalescence of cubes kept frozen in a bag does not depend upon the opacity of the bags used; it would appear to depend upon the accessibility of air through perforations.

I am, Sir, yours sincerely,  
JOHN BOULTON,  
18 Lillingdon Avenue,  
Leamington Spa,  
Warwickshire.

## May not sign

From Mr. Z. Lal

Sir, With reference to the letter from Dr. Faran Jit Singh (December 8), as a practising dentist I have signed passport application forms for persons known to me for more than two years and after my signature I have added in parentheses (Indian subject). The passport authorities have always accepted my signature and the last application form signed by me was less than two months ago. I remain, yours faithfully,  
HARBANS LAL,  
242 Finchley Road, NW3.

## Never on Monday

From Mr. Robert Vincent

Sir, A recent delivery of almanacs reveals that my printer has embraced the irritating trend of now showing the first day of the week as Monday.

However, some small redemption was obtained when he agreed to accept payment by the middle of the following week. I settled up on Thursday. Yours faithfully,  
ROBERT VINCENT,  
Dilly House,  
Wildern,  
Hampton,  
December 4.





## COURT AND SOCIAL

### COURT CIRCULAR

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
December 12. By command of The Queen, the Earl of Arvon (Lord in Waiting) called upon The President of the Republic of Zaire and Madame Mobutu at Carles on this evening and on behalf of Her Majesty bade farewell to their Excellencies upon their departure from this Country.

### Forthcoming marriages

Mr R. J. Clifton and Miss S. A. White. The engagement is announced between Robert John, only son of Mr and Mrs A. J. Clifton, of Dawlish, Devon, and Sarah Anne, daughter of Captain R. White, RN, of Seaton, Devon, and the late Mrs White.

Mr D. A. Chapman and Miss J. J. Wickham. The engagement is announced between David Andrew, only son of Mr P. F. Chapman of Abu Dhabi, and Miss J. J. Wickham, daughter of Captain R. White, RN, of Seaton, Devon, and the late Mrs White.

Mr S. K. Smith and Miss V. S. Lloyd-Rees. The engagement is announced between Stephen Kenneth, son of

December 12. The Prince and Princess of Wales, this morning attended a Service in Gloucester Cathedral. His Royal Highness, President, accompanied by Her Royal Highness, was present this evening at the Friends of Covent Garden Christmas Party at the Royal Opera House.

The Son Edward Adams and Miss Anne Rockwith-Smith were in attendance.

The President of the Federal Republic of Germany is 67 today.

Mr and Mrs K. Smith, of Tonbridge, Kent, and Victoria Spencer, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs D. L. Lloyd-Rees, of Longmeadow, Massachusetts, United States.

Mr C. S. Palford and Miss J. S. Foster Taylor. The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of Mr R. L. Palford, of Colchester, Essex, and Miss J. S. Foster Taylor, daughter of Mr and Mrs M. Foster Taylor, of Theobalds, Essex.

The marriage took place on Saturday, December 12, at the Church of Christ the King, 244, 246, and 248, in the City of London, between Mr and Mrs M. Foster Taylor, of Theobalds, Essex.

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## Muffled Catholic doubts on covenanting

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

The Roman Catholic bishops of England and Wales are not happy with the covenanting proposals being considered by the Church of England and the Free Churches, and regard them as likely to be harmful to the ultimate goal of church unity.

That fairly arresting conclusion has not been authoritatively and publicly communicated to the interested parties, an inhibition due it seems to an immoderate sense of tact in the Roman Catholic authorities. They do not want to be seen to be interfering in a covenant scheme which they favour in principle but are not participating in.

Their discretion, however, has allowed all sorts of interpretations to be put on their attitude, which has been made easier by the existence of certain disagreements in the ranks of the Roman Catholic experts concerned. A recent public statement of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, drafted apparently with tact rather than clarity as the first priority, has increased the confusion.

After discussing the state of play on the covenant proposals, the conference issued the following statement at the end of its November meeting.

"A number of non-Catholic churches are engaged in discussion whether to enter into a covenant on the basis proposed in the booklet, *Towards Visible Unity, Proposals for a Covenant*. In 1977 the Bishops' Conference gave qualified support to the notion and practice of cove-

nanting. It is now developing. It is now authoritatively said that it was meant to be understood as an indication of considerable misgivings.

In particular, it is said, the bishops share the objections raised by the Anglo-Catholic party as expressed in the minority dissenting report to the General Synod and since articulated by the Church Union. This will come as powerful ammunition for the Church Union's campaign against the covenant as it is now drafted.

Throughout this affair the participating churches have indicated that they wanted to play a constructive role, and it will come as a disappointment that at this late stage objections are being made to the covenanting proposals, and that it is not being done in a plain and open manner (although there will be respect for the bishop's reluctance to speak more directly).

It is further said, authoritatively, that the Roman Catholic hierarchy would regret it if the Church of England committed itself to the present covenanting scheme. It would modify, it is said, the Anglican doctrine of ordination and of episcopacy in a way that will make eventual reconciliation with the Roman Catholic church more difficult.

It is also said that the covenanting proposals are incompatible with the joint statements so far produced by the Anglican Roman Catholic International Commission (ARCIC), and that

the unpublished fourth joint statement, expected next year, is even more incompatible with the covenant.

Those Anglican circles closest to the ARCIC scheme are anxious to have the unpublished statement on the record and in the open as soon as possible, certainly before the covenanting proposals go much further.

It may well be concluded, though this is not being said authoritatively, that the covenanting proposals are capable of being altered to meet Anglo-Catholic objections, and hence by implication meeting the objections of the Roman Catholic bishops, but the price to pay will be the loss of United Reformed Church participation.

The Methodist Church would find such modifications acceptable to it, as being already within the scope of the 1972 Anglican-Methodist scheme, which gained general Methodist consent. That does not mean to say that the Methodists would welcome such modifications, as to do so could mean ditching the United Reformed Church.

Strangely enough, if that dilemma materialises, it will be the Methodist Church which has to make the crucial decision affecting all the others. The question would be the prospect of eventual unity with Rome more important to the Methodist Church than the prospect of a united church with the Church of England and the United Reformed Church, but with Rome further away than ever?



The Prince and Princess of Wales leaving Gloucester Cathedral yesterday after attending Holy Communion.

They had braved severe road conditions to visit the historic cathedral of their new home county (Our Gloucester Correspondent writes).

Although the journey from Highgrove is less than twenty miles, they took no chances with the weather and made a 10-mile detour in their chauffeur-driven Rolls-Royce, using the M5 instead of travelling directly on snow-covered roads. They arrived on time to be greeted by a shivering crowd of about 300 people. The princess had a distinctly Russian look, wearing a grey belted coat with matching cosack hat and muffled knee-length burgundy boots.

The Princess of Wales is the nation's favourite royal person, according to a survey published yesterday in the *News of the World* (the Press Association reports).

Moreover, Miles Kington

Protest groups were out and about early in the streets today, demonstrating against the Freeze and condemning Mrs Thatcher's commitment to Britain's independent snow.

"Britain has stockpiled enough snow to make 35 billion snowballs," says the Rev. John Singer, chairman of CDN (Campaign for Defrosting Now). "I can't see this cutting much ice with the Russians, who have enough power to blanket the whole of Britain. We say the salt talks have gone on long enough; let's get the salt on the roads now!"

Heavy falls of sleet throughout the Home Counties have rendered many roads impassable (Our Motoring Correspondent reports) and motorists are asked especially to avoid Deepdale Avenue, SW 35, where Our Motoring Correspondent is trying to manoeuvre out into the main road from his drive, which landed in deep rough after a bad slide from the fourteenth.

British Rail report that trains are arriving anything up to three hours late at Waterloo, which is a considerable improvement on normal. To safeguard departures, in a short but moving ceremony this morning the 7.40 to Folkestone was renamed the 11.10 to Folkestone and left at 12.05 for Gillingham.

On Eastern Region, meanwhile, Sheffield station has been declared a disaster area and food parcels and blankets have flooded in from as far afield as Bangladesh and Turkey.

Turkey has flooded in from the Far Affair Turkey Farm, Norfolk, and the winner of this year's Turkey New Year Race is the City Cafe behind St Paul's Cathedral, who are proudly presenting their annual Christmas Lunch Special of Tomato soup, Turkey and two veg, mince pie and tinsel pudding for only £1.75, service not included, at the City Cafe, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

We would like to apologise for the arrival of Christmas; every attempt is being made to rectify the error. Now, here are the main points of the apology again.

By arrangement with British Rail Announcements Ltd.

## An auction record for Sargent

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

A painting by John Singer Sargent entitled "Woman at Work" was sold for \$505,000 (unpublished estimate \$500,000), or £21,900, by Christies in New York on Friday. The price topped an auction record for the artist set by Sotheby's the day before at \$260,000.

Sargent, an American, took Europe by storm at the turn of the century, becoming the favoured portraitist of the rich and famous. This is a more personal work, a view of a woman in a sunlit vineyard courtyard, clearly painting for his own pleasure.

The sale of American pictures and sculpture spanned the eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Several new records were set, but 15 per cent was left unsold.

A pair of portraits by John Singleton Copley of Mr and Mrs Joshua Henshaw set an auction price record for the artist at \$285,000 (estimate \$220,000 to \$300,000), or £20,475. Dating from the early 1770s, they have the restrained precision characteristic of Copley's style before he visited England.

Appointments in the Forces

Royal Navy: Rear Admiral: R. E. Jones to be C-in-C of the 1st Fleet, replacing R. E. Jones, who is to be C-in-C of the 2nd Fleet. Rear Admiral: R. E. Jones to be C-in-C of the 3rd Fleet, replacing R. E. Jones, who is to be C-in-C of the 4th Fleet.

Royal Air Force: Air Vice-Marshal: R. E. Jones to be C-in-C of the 1st Air Force, replacing R. E. Jones, who is to be C-in-C of the 2nd Air Force. Air Vice-Marshal: R. E. Jones to be C-in-C of the 3rd Air Force, replacing R. E. Jones, who is to be C-in-C of the 4th Air Force.

Royal Army: Major-General: R. E. Jones to be C-in-C of the 1st Army, replacing R. E. Jones, who is to be C-in-C of the 2nd Army. Major-General: R. E. Jones to be C-in-C of the 3rd Army, replacing R. E. Jones, who is to be C-in-C of the 4th Army.

Royal Marines: Major-General: R. E. Jones to be C-in-C of the 1st Marines, replacing R. E. Jones, who is to be C-in-C of the 2nd Marines. Major-General: R. E. Jones to be C-in-C of the 3rd Marines, replacing R. E. Jones, who is to be C-in-C of the 4th Marines.

Royal Engineers: Major-General: R. E. Jones to be C-in-C of the 1st Engineers, replacing R. E. Jones, who is to be C-in-C of the 2nd Engineers. Major-General: R. E. Jones to be C-in-C of the 3rd Engineers, replacing R. E. Jones, who is to be C-in-C of the 4th Engineers.

Royal Signals: Major-General: R. E. Jones to be C-in-C of the 1st Signals, replacing R. E. Jones, who is to be C-in-C of the 2nd Signals. Major-General: R. E. Jones to be C-in-C of the 3rd Signals, replacing R. E. Jones, who is to be C-in-C of the 4th Signals.

Royal Ordnance: Major-General: R. E. Jones to be C-in-C of the 1st Ordnance, replacing R. E. Jones, who is to be C-in-C of the 2nd Ordnance. Major-General: R. E. Jones to be C-in-C of the 3rd Ordnance, replacing R. E. Jones, who is to be C-in-C of the 4th Ordnance.

Royal Artillery: Major-General: R. E. Jones to be C-in-C of the 1st Artillery, replacing R. E. Jones, who is to be C-in-C of the 2nd Artillery. Major-General: R. E. Jones to be C-in-C of the 3rd Artillery, replacing R. E. Jones, who is to be C-in-C of the 4th Artillery.

Royal Cavalry: Major-General: R. E. Jones to be C-in-C of the 1st Cavalry, replacing R. E. Jones, who is to be C-in-C of the 2nd Cavalry. Major-General: R. E. Jones to be C-in-C of the 3rd Cavalry, replacing R. E. Jones, who is to be C-in-C of the 4th Cavalry.

Royal Tank Corps: Major-General: R. E. Jones to be C-in-C of the 1st Tank Corps, replacing R. E. Jones, who is to be C-in-C of the 2nd Tank Corps. Major-General: R. E. Jones to be C-in-C of the 3rd Tank Corps, replacing R. E. Jones, who is to be C-in-C of the 4th Tank Corps.

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Royal Corps of Engineers: Major-General: R. E. Jones to be C-in-C of the 1st Corps of Engineers, replacing R. E. Jones, who is to be C-in-C of the 2nd Corps of Engineers. Major-General: R. E. Jones to be C-in-C of the 3rd Corps of Engineers, replacing R. E. Jones, who is to be C-in-C of the 4th Corps of Engineers.

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## OBITUARY

### MR LAURENCE KING

Noted church architect

Mr Laurence King, OBE, FSA, FRIBA, who died at his Essex home on December 9, aged 74, was an architect who not only designed — mainly in an extension of the Georgian tradition — a large number of new churches in London and the Home Counties, but restored several churches of note, among them St Magnus, London Bridge, and St Mary-le-Bow, Chancery Lane, both supreme examples of Wren's work, which he lovingly brought back into use after damage in the last war.

Laurence Edward King, born on June 28, 1907, the son of Frederick and Flora King, was trained as an architect at the Bartlett School, the University of London, studying under A. E. (later Sir Albert) Richardson, who developed in him a young pupil a love and understanding of honest Georgian building.

The war of 1939-45 interrupted King's first essay in private practice but in 1946 he joined the architectural firm of Messrs. King, Porter and Partners, which was then in the Middle East. He practised himself as a practising architect while also resuming the teaching of architecture at the Bartlett School, the University of London, and in 1951 he was appointed to the Chair of Architecture at the Architectural Association, of which he was chairman. He enjoyed his connections with the City of London of which he was a Freeman, as a liveryman of the Worshipful Company of St. Dunstons, and as a member of the Royal Society of Arts, of which he was a member.

Laurence King will be remembered as an architect who, probably without rival in his field, worked tirelessly all his professional life to restore to the communities of England and Wales the architectural buildings and, by new works, to add to their store.

In the educational field, he

designed new buildings for Eastbourne and Framingham Colleges and the United Westminster Schools, as well as extensions to Sutton Valence, Emmanuel School, and his old school, Brentwood.

But ecclesiastical architecture was his first love; he was consultant to Exeter Cathedral and to the Diocese of Gibraltar, and he designed churches in a number of new housing areas, Leigh-on-Sea, South Ruislip, Parville and Lechworth among them. His major work, however, was the restoration of the Queen's Chapel of the Savoy, while in addition to work for other religious communities, he rebuilt St Saviour's Priory in Egham, Surrey, and St. Dunstons in London.

Among these many commissions, Laurence King made time to serve on a number of bodies — among them the General Synod, the Council for Places of Worship, the Worshipful Company of St. Dunstons, and the Arts Association, of which he was chairman. He enjoyed his connections with the City of London of which he was a Freeman, as a liveryman of the Worshipful Company of St. Dunstons, and as a member of the Royal Society of Arts, of which he was a member.

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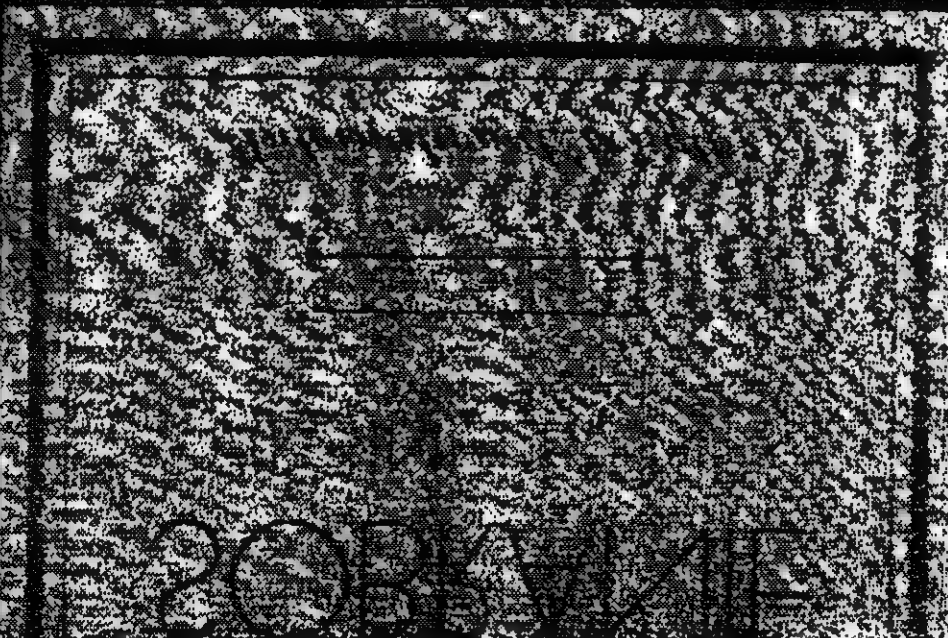
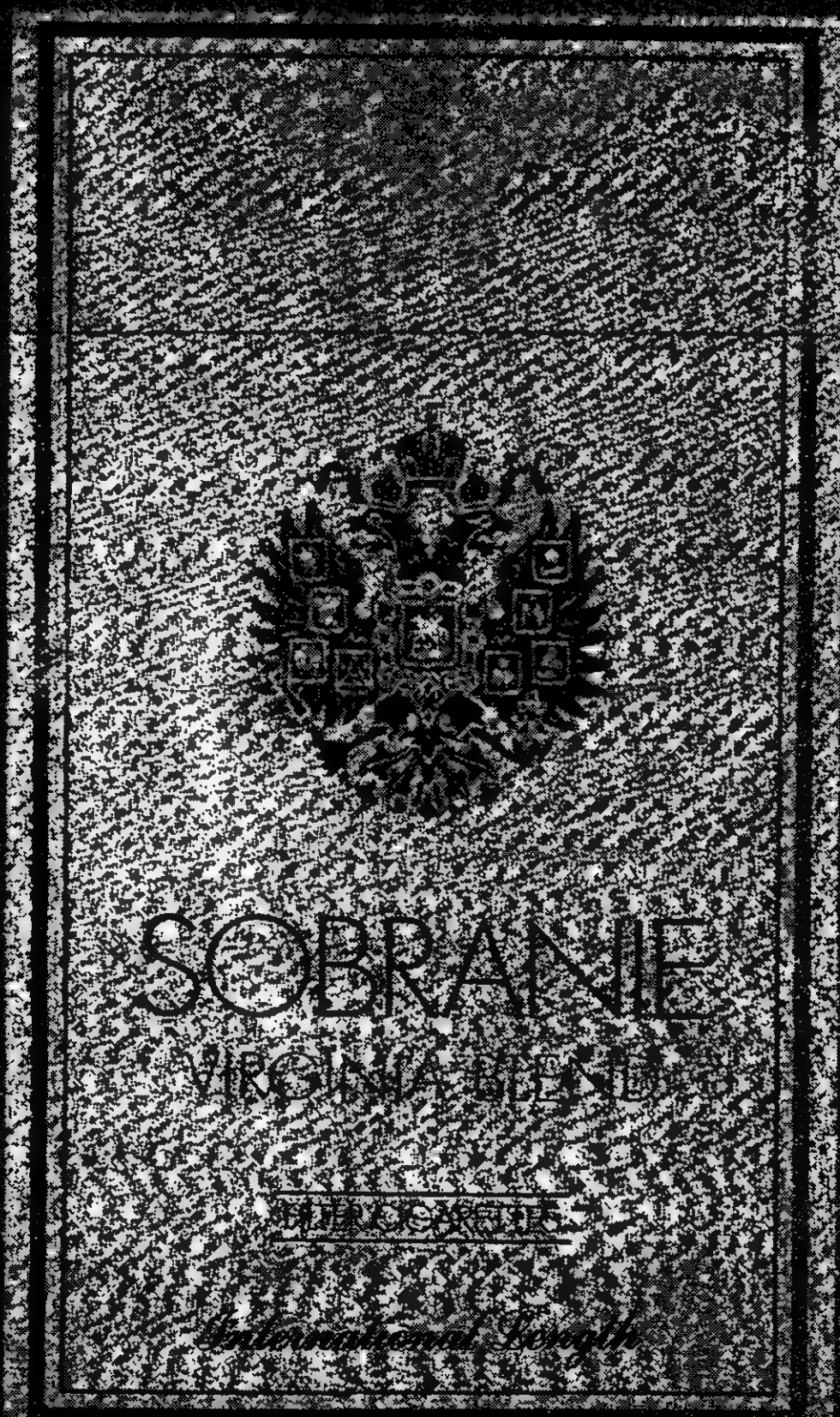
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INTRODUCING  
SOBRANIE  
VIRGINIA BLEND

CIGARETTES OF INTERNATIONAL LENGTH  
BY SOBRANIE OF LONDON



LOW TO MIDDLE TAR Manufacturer's estimate

DANGER: H.M. Government Health Departments' WARNING:  
THINK FIRST-MOST DOCTORS DON'T SMOKE



(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)

[illegible]



Frittering away  
the riches of  
N Sea, page 15

# Business News

THE TIMES Monday December 14 1981

**FABRICATION  
& ASSEMBLY**  
Machines/Steel structures.  
From wood turning to 60 ton trailers.  
From the smallest to complete buildings.  
**Stanmill Company Ltd.**  
Winchester, Hants.  
Phone: 0934 622121 Telex: 320055 Fomel G.

## Lonrho still in market for Fraser

By Anthony Hilton

Lonrho appears not to have given up all hope of taking over House of Fraser, the store chain which owns Harrods, in spite of a Monopolies Commission veto on the deal last week.

Speaking on BBC television's Money Programme yesterday, Mr Paul Spicer, a Lonrho director said the company intended to retain its 30 per cent share holding in Fraser.

He said Lonrho might consider taking action to meet the criticisms of the company listed in the report.

By implication this could clear the way for Lonrho to come back and try again to acquire House of Fraser.

Against this, however, Mr Spicer said Lonrho would give any undertakings it was required to give, to the Government, that it would not seek to acquire control of House of Fraser. But this is a grey area because it remains unclear how far the Government can go, and what it can "require" Lonrho to do.

Mr Spicer also said Lonrho had no intention of increasing its influence either directly or indirectly, but he would not be surprised if a Middle Eastern or American buyer snapped up 5 to 7 per cent of the company in the next few weeks and used this to wield effective control.

Talks will be held later this week with Mrs Sally Oppenheim, Consumer Affairs Secretary, who said in the same programme that the Government would "do what was right to carry out the recommendations of the Monopolies Commission".

Mrs Oppenheim said that employment, foreign competition, management and other factors as well as efficiency, all influenced the commission.

## Crisis ahead for public spending plan

By David Blake

A new public-spending crisis is building up over the Government's attempt to plan its medium-term expenditure in cash using unrealistic inflation forecasts. Capital spending programmes, which have to be drawn up in advance, have been thrown into confusion by the switch, which began this year, to the new inflation forecasts. The problems have been highlighted in the past few days by the pay settlement for local government workers, which shows that inflation in the public sector is likely to be far higher in 1982-83 than the Government hoped.

Work is now getting under way to draw up public-spending plans up to 1985. But as a result of a radical rethink in the way the Government decides its spending decisions, officials are not being allowed to use the "fancy money" of constant prices which has ruled since the early sixties.

Instead, they have been told that they must draw up plans in cash terms on the assumption that inflation in the public sector will be 6 per cent in 1983-84 and 5 per cent in 1984-85.

Officials in Whitehall see no sign that these inflation forecasts will be met or that the Government has any serious intention of trying to meet them. The six per cent figure for 1983-84 is thought to be particularly unrealistic.

Because the old system of drawing up medium-term plans in "voluntary" terms has been abandoned as part of the move to cash control, the Government has no coherent way of keeping a check on what it is intending to do in these circumstances. There are signs that some spending departments, such as the health service, feel that matters have reached such a state of chaos

that they are committing themselves to ambitious programmes now in the hope that, when the crunch comes from 1983 onwards, there will be money found somehow to pick up the bill.

The problems caused by cash-planning are reawakening interest in the Treasury in the idea that some sort of volume planning ought to be done.

A sign of the problems of using cash-planning over even very short periods came late last week with the news that local authority manual workers had reached an agreement giving them pay rises of nearly 7 per cent. This is far higher than the 4 per cent which the Government hopes will be the average increase in the public service sector.

If repeated throughout the public sector, the local authorities' settlement would mean cuts in the volume of public spending of about 1 to 1½ per cent to hold its cash value to the £115,000 figure agreed by Government.

Officials in Whitehall feel that the 6 per cent assumption for inflation in the public spending estimates in 1983-84 is more an example of the Government feeling that it has to say that inflation will come down than a serious forecast of what will happen.

They feel that trying to draw up spending plans on that basis will be doubly damaging. It will mean that spending in "voluntary" terms will be cut down seriously because they will think that they are based on unsustainable inflation forecasts.

There is also the risk of a new battle over public spending levels next August, as the Cabinet adjusts the cash total up in the light of higher inflation forecasts.

## £25m trading deficit limit is forecast Shipbuilders set to cut losses

By Peter Hill, Industrial Editor

State-owned British Shipbuilders expects to cut its losses this year to less than £25m. This compares with a £110m deficit two years ago.

Confirmation that the company expects to remain inside the Government set trading loss limit of £25m this year was given by Mr Robert Atkinson, chairman, when he announced a first half loss of £7m.

Last year Shipbuilders recorded a trading loss of £41.4m, before intervention fund allocation, the subsidy provided by the Government to narrow the gap between United Kingdom and foreign yard prices.

The continuing reduction of losses will be seized on by ministers as further vindication of their policies aimed at securing greater efficiency in the state industry sector.

Next year, the company is forecasting that its trading losses will be trimmed still further—to around £10m—and the following year the chairman believes it will achieve a financial break-even with a provisional trading loss of possibly £700,000. Mr Atkinson has already indicated that in 1984-85 the Government can expect to receive a repayment on its public dividend capital.

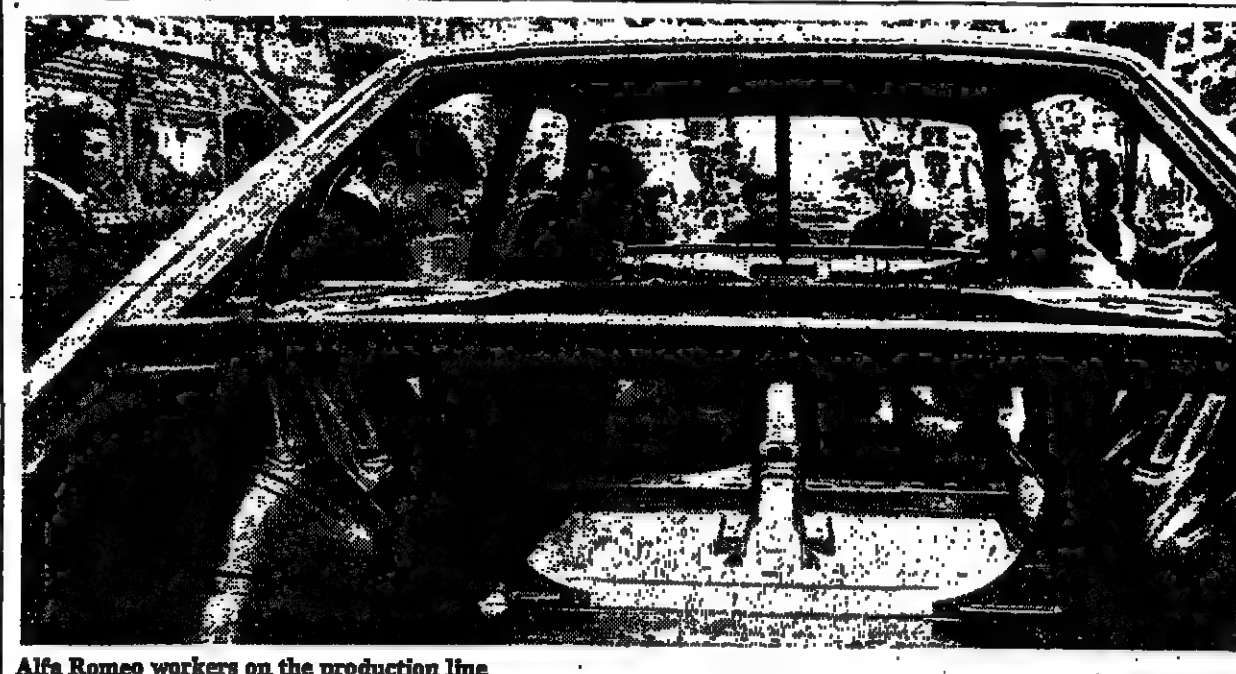
The corporation is still involved in talks with Mr Patrick Jenkin, Industry Secretary, over its next corporate plan. Provisionally the Government has allocated an External Financing Limit (EFL) of £125m for next year compared with £150m this year.

There are still uncertainties over the reduction in the flow of orders for the Royal Navy announced in this summer's defence review.

Mr Atkinson and his fellow directors are urging the Government to advance an order for the new Type 23 frigate and to launch a co-ordinated warship selling campaign overseas. Failure to win new warship contracts from the Royal Navy and from foreign governments could threaten jobs in the specialist warship yards by next autumn. Despite the potential problems on the warship front, the corporation's merchant order book has now risen to its largest since 1978 and valued at close on £800m.

Over the past few months there has been a steady flow of new orders and Mr Atkinson is particularly pleased that a number of new contracts have been placed by former customers of United Kingdom yards who deserted the industry for foreign yards in the 1960s.

The improved financial performance follows the shedding of thousands of jobs since nationalisation four years ago. Productivity last year rose by 15 per cent compared with 1979-80 and industrial disputes in merchant yards have been virtually eliminated.



Alfa Romeo workers on the production line

## Alfa Romeo plans four-month shutdown in 1982

From John Earle, Rome, Dec 13

Alfa Romeo, Italy's second biggest car manufacturer after Fiat, plans to be idle for four months next year, cutting output from its capacity of 280,000 to 180,000.

Signor Ettore Massaccesi, chairman of the state-owned company, said it "had its back to the wall" and would throughout 1982 work for two months, then close for one month, then resume for a further two months.

In this way one third of production would be lost. During the idle periods, 2,000 people would be retained to man the offices and administrative services and to maintain plants. In addition, he said in an interview with the Rome newspaper *La Repubblica*, 7,000 workers would be suspended for the whole year.

The group, with its main plants at Milan and near Naples, employs 35,000 in its car sector. It made a small profit of Lire 1,000m (about £430,000) in 1980, when it produced 222,000 cars, but is expected to be heavily in loss this year.

Signor Massaccesi said without considering the effects of the market crisis in the western world, he reckoned that inflation alone would cost the company more than Lire 200,000m (£87m) since it did not manage to make its sales prices keep pace with Italian inflation.

Signor Massaccesi said he felt tempted to say that there was no future for Alfa Romeo, as the crisis was so enormous. But in fact he thought there was "a half future", thanks to its alliances with other manufacturers. In south Italy it is setting up a plant to produce a new model with Nissan, while in the north it is engaged in talks with Fiat on collaboration over manufacture of components and rationalisation of activities.

## BIG RISE IN OUTPUT DISPUTED

By Melvyn Westlake

The Government's claim that a big boost to Britain's productivity is providing the foundation for lasting economic recovery is challenged today by a senior City economist.

There is he says, little evidence of a "productivity miracle" and any gains seen in the last couple of years will probably be reversed during the next economic upswing.

In an article in *The Economist*, published by stockbrokers Simon and Coates, economist Mr Gavin Davies says productivity in the current recession has been no better than in the recession of 1974-75 and much worse than in 1970-72.

His analysis also shows that, though there was a big and almost continuous output shakeout between 1970 and 1975, more than half this gain was reversed by 1979.

The shakeout this time has been only about half of that between 1970 and 1975.

## Price freeze call by steel customers

By Our Industrial Editor

Opposition is growing among customers to the planned round of co-ordinated price increases by European steel makers. Steel users and processors are demanding a freeze on increases of 5 per cent, due to be imposed in March and June next year. They have also called for greater consultation with the EEC Commission and steel makers on future price increases.

Representatives of steel users and processors of the European Coal and Steel Community's consultative committee, angered by the lack of consultation over recent increases of 17½ per cent, have lodged an informal statement deploring the commission's handling of the pricing issue.

The co-ordinated listing of prices by members of the European steel makers' cartel in three stages next year represents the key element in the commission's attempt to restore steel industry profitability and to eliminate continuing overcapacity. Customer industries have already strongly opposed both scale and speed.

In their statement to the consultative committee, steel industry representatives called for a freeze on the 5 per cent increases, due to be introduced after the 12½ per cent rise is implemented next January. They had previously proposed the January increase be either postponed or substantially trimmed.

The steel industry's customers also want a moratorium on related increases in the cost of steel products extras and have proposed a new framework, which would involve detailed discussions between the commission, producers and users and processors well in advance of future price movements.

Mr John Safford, director of the British Iron and Steel Federation, said the industry would not want to have difficulties with the producers and the commission, but if they continue to treat us in such a cavalier fashion, we shall continue to make strong protests.

## Government set to extend De Lorean guarantee

By David Hewson

Motor industry sources now believe the De Lorean car company will receive an extension of a £10m loan guarantee from the Northern Ireland Office.

A Government announcement, probably in the form of a reply to a written question from a backbencher, is expected within 10 days. It is likely to give the firm breathing space over £10m of loan guarantees from the Government.

But it is not yet known if the Northern Ireland Office will agree to De Lorean's request for a further £5m in public support, which would bring Government aid for the company up to the £60m mark.

The plea for an extension of the loan guarantee, which runs out on December 31, is being considered by the Northern Ireland Office in the knowledge that refusal would throw the future of the firm into jeopardy just when it is starting to get off the ground.

The company employs more than 2,000 people in an area of Belfast where unemployment is high. Industry observers do not believe that the Government, which has spent so heavily on De Lorean, would close the firm for want of an extended loan guarantee.

## PLEA FOR CLOTHING EXPORTS

By Rupert Morris

The British clothing industry must anticipate changing trends and export more, with trading support from Government, and financial support from banks, the National Economic Development Council says today.

Competitiveness remains one of the industry's strengths, earning it a £22m trade surplus with the rest of the EEC in 1980. A production drop of 12 per cent in 1980, and the loss of 40,000 jobs in the year ending March 1981 are attributed to three main factors: imports from low-wage countries, low growth and sudden surges in United Kingdom demand, and restrictions in access to overseas markets.

Low-cost imports will remain a problem, and British firms will have to respond by finding new markets overseas.

Mr Basil Feldman, chairman of the clothing EDC promises in a summary of the report entitled "Rally for Success" that the EDC will concentrate on developing market trends in the future.

## Silicon chip job fears 'unjustified'

By Clive Cookson

Claims that the introduction of microelectronics has a big impact on employment are not generally justified, according to a report published today by the Policy Studies Institute in London.

The study is the fourth and final part of a nationwide survey of 1,200 manufacturers. More than 70 per cent of the silicon chip users in the sample said the introduction of microelectronics had caused no significant change in employment and 60 per cent expected no impact within the next 18 months.

In companies where there had been an increase or decrease in jobs, the changes were usually less than 10 per cent. Only 1 per cent of the sample had experienced an increase or decrease of more than 40 per cent.

The survey, which was undertaken by Jim Northcott and Petra Rogers with Anthony Zeilinger, did detect an interesting difference between establishments using microelectronics for industrial processes and those installing chips in products.

Among the former, job losses were three times more frequent than job gains. The proportion was reversed among companies with product applications, where three times more companies increased employment. The overall effect was a small net decline because process applications are much more common.

When manufacturers are asked what are the most important constraints holding up the introduction of microelectronics, the lack of skilled manpower more often than all other problems combined. The people in shortest supply are engineers with microelectronics expertise. The report estimates that Britain needs about 40 per cent more of these engineers immediately.

*Microelectronics in Industry: Manpower and Training* is available from PSI, 1 Castle Lane, London SW1E 6DR, at £5.00.

## Goods ban report due

The Monopolies and Mergers Commission report on TI Raleigh Industries' refusal to supply bicycles to some cut-price retailers will be published this week. The case is the first investigation under the new Competition Act to run its full course and will be watched by other sectors where discount shops have been refused supplies.

Limitations on supplies have been reported in a wide variety of goods including jewellery, perfume and cosmetics, sports equipment, chinaware and glassware.

□ An American Government sale of oil and gas leases in Alaska, due to take place on Wednesday, has been postponed until next month because of uncertainties among bidders over the antitrust laws.

## BUSINESS BRIEFING



## Policy chief for CBI

Sir Austin Pearce, above, chairman of British Aerospace, is to be chairman of the Confederation of British Industry's industrial policy committee. Sir Austin, 60, succeeds Sir Campbell Fraser, chairman of Dunlop, in the new year. He brings to the job the unusual experience of having chaired

## Respect rules, steel told

The European Economic Community is to ask European steel companies to respect the American "tariff" price rules fully and the American Government will ask its industry to postpone filing complaints of anti-dumping.

It was understood unofficially yesterday to be the main result of trade talks between the American Government and the EEC which ended in Brussels on Saturday.

Earlier, Mr Roy Denman, the EEC director-general of external relations, said the two sides had agreed on efforts to make the trigger-price mechanism function better, but said the Americans did not promise to put pressure on their producers. The two sides had rejected any form of voluntary restraint.

Mr Denman said the two sides had also agreed on the need to negotiate a new multi-fibre arrangement by the end of the year though they were not far apart on the need to persuade Japan to open its markets to imports.

## GEC links with Telecom

British Telecom has signed an agreement with GEC for the world-wide marketing of its Prestel teletext software, to run from January 1.

Mr Richard Hooper, chief executive of information services at British Telecom, said: "Here is another good example of a public sector-private partnership. Viewdata was invented a decade ago at British Telecom's research laboratories. It has been taken up and exploited vigorously by British industry yielding overseas exports in excess of £30m to date."

The link between Telecom and GEC comes after the increased competition introduced by the recent British Telecoms Act. It will apply to sales of private and public systems using a combination of GEC computer hardware and Prestel software.

## Stock Markets

FT Index 520.2  
FT Gilts 62.73  
FT All Share 309.58  
Bargains 12,500

## Sterling

\$1.8805  
Index 89.8  
New York: \$1.8670

## Dollar

Index 107.2  
DM 2.2580

## Gold

\$411.00  
New York: \$406.70

## Money

3 mth sterling 158-159  
3 mth Euro \$131-132  
6 mth Euro \$144-145  
(Friday's close)

## Singapore banks cut prime rate

Three leading Singapore banking groups have cut their prime rates to 11.75 per cent from today. They are Overseas Chinese Banking Corporation (old rate 12 per cent), Overseas Union Bank (12.5 per cent).

□ Production by mining companies of coal leased to them by the American Government in the Western United States could rise nearly four-fold to 500 million short tons a year by the early 1990s, compared with 138 million short tons in 1979, a Congressional report said yesterday. It added that this would go a long way to meeting energy needs for decades ahead.

## THIS WEEK

give evidence on the Energy select committee's hearing on North Sea oil depletion policy. Details of average earnings (October) and basic rates of wages (November) from Department of Employment.

Thursday: Energy select committee continues with evidence from Mr Hamish Gray, Minister of State, Cyclical Indicators for the United Kingdom economy (November). Revised figures for capital expenditure by manufacturing, distributive and service industries (third

quarter), and manufacturers' and distributors' stocks (third quarter). Bank of England Bulletin will include third-quarter figures on British banking sector statistics, money stock and central government borrowing requirements.

Investment intentions of manufacturing, distributive and service industries for 1982-83, from the Department of Industry. Steel production figures (November).

Friday: Retail prices index and tax and price index (both November).

# United Engineering Industries,

PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY

Application has been made to the Council of The Stock Exchange for the whole of the issued share capital of the Company to be admitted to the Official List, including the shares to be issued in connection with the proposed amalgamation with Micro Consultants Limited and two American Companies ("the MCL Group"). Subject as mentioned below, dealings are expected to begin on Monday, 21st December, 1981.

It is expected that particulars of the enlarged group will be available in the Extra Statistical Services on Friday, 18th December, 1981, subject to the approval by the shareholders of the resolution to be proposed at the Extraordinary General Meeting convened for 12.00 noon on Thursday, 17th December, 1981, notice of which accompanied a circular letter to shareholders dated 27th November, 1981, and to completion of the proposed amalgamation.

Pending such particulars being available, copies of two circular letters to shareholders giving details of the acquisition of Yewlands Engineering Company Limited and Precomp Engineering Services Limited and of the proposed amalgamation with the MCL Group dated 17th July, 1981, and 27th November, 1981, respectively can be obtained from:

**N. M. ROTHSCHILD & SONS LIMITED,**  
New Court, St. Swithin's Lane, London, EC4P 4DU.



## Women in a man's world

Rhiannon Chapman, 35, was appointed head of personnel at the Stock Exchange last year, becoming one of the City's few female senior managers. Since she arrived in Old Broad Street, equipped with a law degree and 11 years' personnel experience in electronics, she has made some interesting discoveries. One is that the City, which she had seen as "a bit moribund and traditionalist," is in fact quite the opposite. Behind the calm veneer of utter changelessness and masculinity, there is actually a lot of change and room for creativity — from women, too. The image may be all male; the reality is less so.

The Stock Exchange itself surprised her. For one thing, it has more sophisticated equipment in everyday use than the electronics company she used to work for. It also has twice as many women staff in higher positions; this is partly because of the different skills required — mainly technological in electronics, mainly administrative in the Stock Exchange. Nevertheless, considering the latter's strongly male image, the difference intrigued her.

Part of Mrs Chapman's work is to find the best way to organize jobs, and to see

Real equality of opportunity — giving women the same chance to succeed at work as men — still seems a long way off. But some women are managing to break through the barriers. The prospects are slowly but perceptibly improving for women in management. Sally Watts spoke to three women, all in their 30s, who are establishing themselves in male settings and, at the same time, assisting the careers of other women.

what skills should be developed so that neither skills nor people become obsolete. Although concerned with men and women equally, she is pleased that a number of women are in junior and middle management, and can be expected to move up. Within its traditional framework, the Stock Exchange is much more willing than it was, even fairly recently, to offer career prospects to the able ambitious woman.

Rhiannon Chapman's role includes spotting potential, wherever this happens to be, and having women staff available provides her with another set of options. "There's less resistance now to thinking about a woman for promotion," she says. "It's become respect-

able, even laudatory, yet there's still a touch of adventure. And the more women there are in senior positions, the easier for those who follow."

She herself is ambitious and aims to become a personnel director. "I need to be successful, to see tasks being performed to a professional, not a peripheral, standard," she says. She has a simple philosophy for being a woman in a male world: "If a man is sensitive to my being a woman, that's his problem, not mine."

Women form only 4 per cent of people going on management courses, and usually they have to ask to attend, whereas men are sent. This is one symptom of

a complex pervading atmosphere which, coupled with women's own attitudes, inhibits their progress, says Valerie Hammond, 39, head of applied research at Ashridge Management College.

Her own working life began in 1961 as a teenage secretary; she progressed by using and creating opportunities and earning increasing responsibility. Since she joined Ashridge two years ago she has been much involved with researching women's employment, particularly for the Manpower Services Commission-sponsored "Women and Management" project.

Mrs Hammond describes some of the limiting attitudes and expectations that tend to hold women back. For example: boys are more likely to go on day-release than girls, who may start evening classes in their mid-twenties; men are often expected to follow up induction courses with college-based training, and do so, but for women the approach is different, and therefore many do not; men take care to be broadly based, women being chided to support roles and specialisms; men progress in logical sequence, women take opportunities at random.



Rhiannon Chapman (left), head of personnel at the Stock Exchange; Valerie Hammond (centre), head of applied research at Ashridge Management College; and Jane Adams, career planning adviser at NatWest Bank.



Women expect to work conscientiously and await promotion — indefinitely — men get more skills and, if promotion is not soon forthcoming, ask why. Again, if a firm advertises for maths or science graduates, women with an arts degree do not apply; their male counterparts do, though, and by developing — on a broader basis, may progress faster than a woman who has the appropriate degree.

Valerie Hammond advises women to find the key job for them, in their firm, and work towards it to develop themselves and not be content about it; to make self-appraisals and, instead of being shunted into a tunnel, to secure the training they need; to forget about specialisms and think about new work areas. Secretaries, too, by developing a strategy, can use their role as a basis for

management; her own method as a secretary, first for a manufacturer, then with Mobil, was to identify the team's weakest point and train herself to strengthen it. At Mobil she became interested in office technology, moved into management and training, and began working for an Open University degree. Later she joined the Petroleum Industry Training Board and soon became project manager, with responsibility for a research programme dealing with changes in office work, and for advising on women in the oil industry.

"In the last analysis," she says, "it's up to women to help themselves. The route is different for everyone: what is important is a positive personal approach."

Jane Adams, 35, entered banking as a school-leaver with four A-levels, passed the Institute of Bankers' examinations and was working in the Midlands for the National Westminster Bank when she was promoted last year to be a career planning adviser in London, with special responsibility for developing women staff.

More than half NatWest's workforce are women yet relatively few hold responsible jobs. Realizing that while their talents remain unfilled the bank is the loser, NatWest set up monitoring procedures, transferred Jane Adams from Leicester to London as watchdog for women and in 1981 launched a scheme

which, from its inception, enables women to return to the bank after having children. New mothers will do relief work and take up the threads again after, at most, five years' absence.

With a continuing male-orientated tradition and few women in senior roles on whom younger employees could model their careers, female staff have been at a disadvantage in banking. This lack of career "conditioning" meant that the ambitious, talented school or college leaver tended to rule banking out of her plans.

But now a welcome change is infiltrating NatWest, in which Jane Adams sees her role as "adding impetus to a climate of encouragement". She wants to foster awareness of the value to women of career planning, going on courses, taking opportunities, and to see they get their share of training.

Her job includes advising on policy and procedures affecting women, perhaps questioning whether something "that has always been done this way" could not be done in a slightly different way.

"Anyone looking for talent has to remember that 50 per cent of the workforce are women," she says. "Even the most entrenched manager realizes they are capable of far more than was dreamed of, even 10 years ago. Attitudes will change still faster as more women perform well in demanding jobs."

Sally Watts

ALL MALT WHISKIES are good. A few, sublime. Among these, there is some gentlemanly jostling for pride of place.

### The Old Contenders

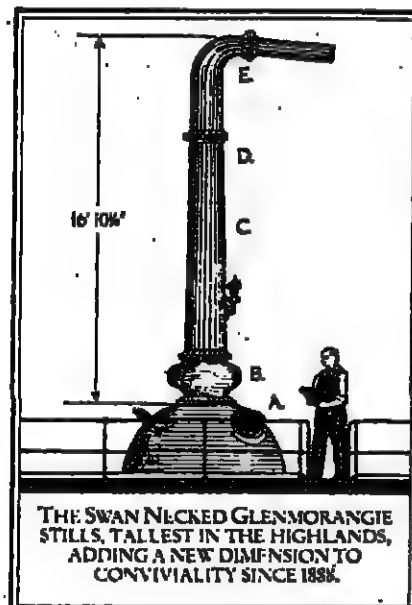
SOME POINT to their product's mist-shrouded history; some to their peat and their barley; others yet to the chilly waters of the burn that feeds the distillery; or to the length of time the finished liquor matures and burgeons in its oaken bed.

### Primus inter pares

ONLY ONE, HOWEVER, stands literally head and shoulders above the rest.

ITS NAME IS GLENMORANGIE, a saffron-gold malt of the most singular sweet-temper and purity.

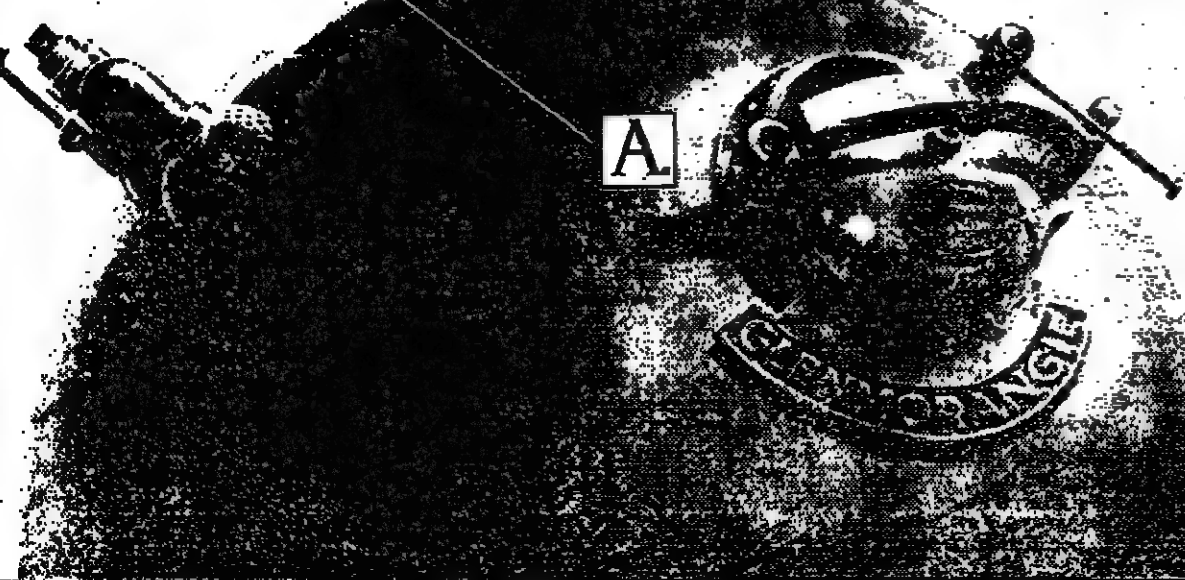
AT THIS POINT, most other Highland malt stills call it a day. But callow elements can still be ascending.



THE SWAN NECKED GLENMORANGIE STILL, TALLEST IN THE HIGHLANDS, ADDING A NEW DIMENSION TO CONVIVIALITY SINCE 1858.

NOTE THE BULGE in the neck just above the main body of the still. It catches the crasser essences and returns them to the boiling.

THE HEART of the whisky-making process, the still itself, where the cherished ingredients seethe and jostle in anticipation of imminent lift-off.



16 FEET 10 1/4 INCHES. The loftiest point in the chosen vapours' ascent. From here, the way is smooth.

EVEN THE HARDEST galecrashers start dropping back at this stage.

### A swan among the onions

GLENMORANGIE'S VIRTUE, while deriving in part from hallowed spring water and time-honoured rituals as impressive as any of its rivals, stems most significantly from an idiosyncrasy of its stills which (though conventionally onion-shaped at the base) possess necks so tall that they make other Highland stills look almost dwarfish.

THIS IS NOT for the sake of mere elegance; it has a higher purpose.

### The height of contentment

THE TALLER THE NECK of the still, the less can the heavier elements and grosser oils climb to mingle with the purer vapours that ascend to the top.

THE RESULT (after ten years' slumber in oaken casks) is a single malt whisky from which initiates obstinately refuse to be weaned, and to which newcomers vow dedication from the first uplifting bibble.



A little nearer heaven than other Malt Whiskies.

GLENMORANGIE

The Glenmorangie Distillery Company, Ltd., Ross-shire Established 1843

## Company profits set to recover in 1982

A substantial growth in British company profits but a poor performance in the world economy is the forecast for 1982 by Phillips and Drew. As long as there is an improvement in industrial volume and the sterling does not rise from present levels, they say profit recovery should be around 20 per cent. Given this background, the brokers believe equities offer good value now, even though they are only a little below their all-time high.

The effects of the upturn on one of Britain's most successful companies, British Petroleum, are definitely good, say Rowe & Pitman. The tide has turned for the company and despite the chance of a distorted final quarter because of stock losses and refinery write-offs, the worst is past, they say. The brokers indicate that there should be much better news from the North Sea next year, and strongly recommend the shares as a buy. But disappointment with BP's third quarter results has left Strauss, Turnbull less optimistic.

They say BP is still being held back by poor downstream results while upstream earnings are probably on a plateau with the group's North Sea output near its peak. They also say there are other, better prospects elsewhere in the industry, and their preferred choices are Shell Transport for sterling accounts and Standard of Indiana, Atlantic Richfield or Standard of California for those able to invest overseas.

In the less glamorous but still important insurance sector, Capel-Cure Myers say that shares in Commercial Union Assurance were overvalued during the summer by about 50p. They have since fallen to 130p, where the brokers say they offer a more balanced risk-reward ratio. The risk is further sharp falls in profits resulting in dividend cuts, and eventually the necessity of a rights issue. The brokers say that a recent meeting with the group's management assuaged their misgivings on all three points. They conclude that CU's prospective dividend yield of over 12 per cent is its main attraction and they recommend holding.

Mr Denys Henderson has been made a director of Barclays Bank International. Mr Henderson is a director of Imperial Chemical Industries and a non-executive director of Delgaty.

Mr David Fisher has been appointed a managing director of Harrison Cowley Advertising (Northern).

Mr Sandy Leitch, Mr Donald Fell and Mr Alan Young have joined the board of Hambro Life. Mr R. J. Wilson has been appointed chief executive of Grindlays Hambro, a subsidiary of Grindlays Bank.

### Brokers' views

the shares on these grounds alone.

In the case of Royal Insurance, they say the issues are more simple. Its dividend yield is only 2.5 points less than CU's, but more soundly based. Despite operations deteriorating in 1982 there are reasonable prospects of a sound earnings upturn and they regard the shares as worth holding.

On General Accident they consider a long-term core holding in the sector, and although the dividend yield is only half CU's, its cover is double. With the prospect of further growth in earnings this year and next, they say, dividends should increase progressively, in due course substantially reducing this yield differential.

Another composite insurer, Phoenix Assurance, is considered by Sheppards and Chase. They say that on a 9.6 per cent prospective yield for 1981, the shares are not excessively over priced, at around 240p per ordinary share, but there are better opportunities elsewhere in the sector. While the UK performance should improve as a result of a recently installed computer system, the large number of overseas interests does not offer scope for a good overall performance.

Sheppards say they advise holders of Phoenix shares to switch into Commercial Union for income or to Sun Alliance for growth.

A less pessimistic assessment of the prospects for Phoenix shareholders is made by Rowe & Pitman, who say that though the third quarter results were depressing, they continue to expect a small rise in the dividend. Although the outlook for 1982 is uncertain and depends principally on the performance of the Continental business, most investors will hold.

In the insurance broking sector, Carr Seabag believe it is a good time to buy.

Drew Johnston

### Business appointments

## Barclays International director named

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# Banks and building societies at war

Are the banks and the building societies merely making peripheral forays into each others' territory? Or are they now locked into a war that may ultimately change the face of High Street banking?

Neither party would admit to the latter view at this stage. Yet that must be the logical end of the road down which both parties have now embarked. Unless, that is, the Government and the Bank of England decide that the process should be halted. And that, I think, would be a pity.

It has taken a long time for the present warfare to start. For most of the seventies, banks and building societies, kept to their traditional paths. For the banks, that meant sitting back and watching the building societies carve out a steadily increasing share of the personal savings market. The home-loan market was effectively a "no-go area" and, in the first half of the seventies, the banks had even had to constrain their deposit rates, on official direction, from the Government's wish to prevent a damaging rise in the mortgage rate. On top of that, there was the periodic restraint placed on the growth of their business by the banking "corset".

Now, however, in a political environment that favours competition, banks and building societies find themselves face to face in a battle to increase volume to sustain the costly overhead structures they have both created.

It is ironic that the societies, as mutuals, have, perhaps, had at least as sharp an appetite for expansion as the banks. Indeed, it has been partly this voracious appetite for expansion — together, of course, with ever-sharper competition from National Savings — that has left the societies with an overall cost-of-funds profile that has made it rather easier for the banks operating on what must be fine margins to undercut them on the mortgage front.

A further irony is the rapid development of the technology of financial services. Theoretically this should offer both groups some respite from the grow-to-survive syndrome by giving them the opportunity to stabilize their operating costs.

But there is, of course, another side to the technology coin. At the same time, it is opening up a whole new range of financial services for the consumer; and that, inevitably, will make for greater rather than less competition.

In short, there seems every reason why the war to increase market share in financial services is likely to intensify over time rather than abate.

If so, one starts to move into the realms of speculation. For instance, could the late eighties see the High Streets dominated, not by a handful of clearing banks and a host of building societies but by, say, a dozen major financial services groups?

Certainly, this looks to be the road down which we are moving and from which it may soon be too late to be able to turn back — if it is not so already. That being the case, the authorities need to make up their minds extremely rapidly if this is what they consider to be in the national interest.

On the face of it, there should be no reason to oppose such a rationalisation of financial services in this country. Indeed, the consumer should have all to gain, provided there are sufficient major competing bodies left in the

One very obvious one would be the extension of the Bank of England's control over a much broader face of the financial, and hence the monetary, system.

A second, is that it would probably aid the rationalisation of the fiscal advantages given to lenders and borrowers without seriously discriminating against any particular class of financial institutions.

There is, after all, a continuing debate over whether the tax subsidy offered home-buyers is either equitable or economically desirable. It is certainly difficult to envisage any UK Government ending this tax advantage at a stroke. But that does not mean to say that the benefit might not at some stage be reduced over a period of time.

To the extent that such a move raised the cost to the home-buyer of servicing a mortgage, it would presumably lead to some constraint both on house prices and the growth in the average size of mortgages taken out. With volume growth the name of the game, this could have significant implications for institutions still heavily dependent on home finance business alone.

There is then the issue of the saver. Here there are two aspects in particular. The first concerns the gross and net payment of interest to savers.

At present, the building societies pay investors their interest net of basic rate tax, and act as the inland Revenue's tax collector. But because they pay interest to a large number of non-taxpayers who cannot recover the tax, the tax the



Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer: Will the Treasury attempt to halt or encourage the evolution of the financial services sector?

societies actually pay over to the Inland Revenue is based on a composite rate, making allowance for the non-tax paying members. The composite rate is, therefore, always several points below the basic rate of tax. In effect, what this means is that the non-taxpayer gives a subsidy to other building society users and helps to keep the overall cost of funds lower than it might otherwise be.

In one sense this is no more than a case of caveat emptor. If the non-taxpayer gets a raw deal from building society investment, then that is his own look out. But it is not especially satisfactory; it is a considerable bone of contention with the banks, who see the composite rate as unfair competition; and there are in any case a number of building societies which are keen to be able to move to a more flexible system allowing them to offer gross interest payments. Here again, rationalization of the present institutional structure would almost certainly bring the issue to a head.

More generally, a rationalized structure, producing more generalist and less specialist financial service groups, should also make it easier for governments to consider a more general revision of the tax advantages that might usefully be given to savers.

At the moment, these advantages go largely to the long-term saver through a pension fund, to a lesser extent, the saver using the life assurance route. Yet the Government is increasingly concerned about the liquidity of the personal sector and a number of monetary economists have often posed the question as to how the potential inflationary effects of this could be more effectively neutralized.

One way is to make medium-term savings a great deal more attractive fiscally.

"North Sea oil provides a unique opportunity for Britain to improve her economic performance, raise her living standards, move forward to full employment, and develop as a socially just society." Thus wrote the then Labour government in a White Paper in 1978.

Two and a half years later Sir Michael Edwards, chairman of British Leyland, was telling the Government that if it could not find a way of living with North Sea oil and bringing the exchange rate down it should "leave this bloody stuff to the ground".

Looking round at the industrial havoc caused by the steepest recession since the war, it is certainly hard to believe that the British people have benefited from oil. Output, investment, living standards are all at their lowest for some years; unemployment is the highest ever recorded and rising; interest rates remain at historically high levels and inflation has stuck obstinately in double figures.

What has happened to the great oil bonanza? Are we really better off with oil?

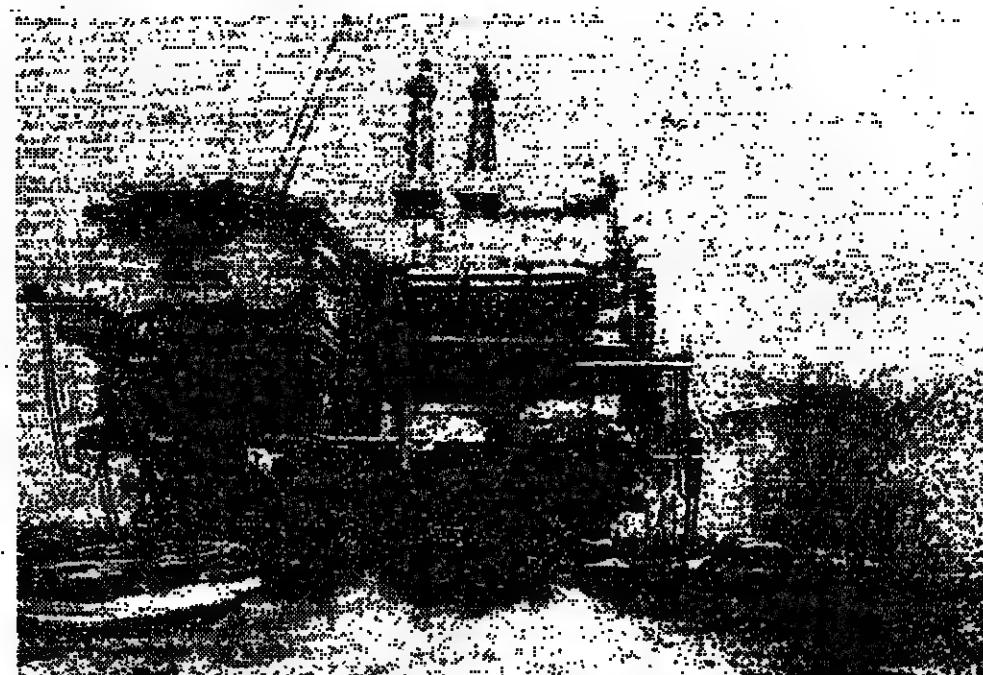
It makes a relatively small contribution to national output, accounting for about 3% per cent of gross national product this year and predicted to rise to a peak of about 5 per cent by the mid-1980s.

But it makes a much bigger contribution to Government revenues through such important sources as petroleum revenue tax and has a substantial impact on the balance of payments.

This year revenues will top £5,800m, equivalent to 5% per cent of all tax revenues, rising to 6 per cent or so by 1983-84; while oil exports will contribute perhaps £8,000m to the balance of payments in 1981 (compared with a £5,000m deficit in current account surplus).

The present Government was the first to reap the benefits of oil. Revenues began to flow only in 1978-79, to the tune of a mere £300m, but rose quickly to £2,300m in 1979-80, and £5,800m in 1980-81. So any inquest on what has happened to Britain's oil wealth must focus on what this Government has done.

The Government's policy is to use North Sea oil revenues to help reduce the public sector borrowing requirements, so as to cut interest



A hostile environment has added to the trials of the North Sea.

## Frittering away the North Sea's riches

rates and thus encourage investment.

In the words of Mr Leon Brittan, chief Secretary to the Treasury last May: "Without these revenues, government borrowing would be higher and so interest rates would be higher, within the limits of monetary growth. By keeping interest rates lower than they would otherwise be, the oil revenues are making it easier for the private sector to invest."

But there is a second component of government policy: a willingness to accept an oil-inflated exchange rate much higher than Britain's competitive position warrants. The Treasury has estimated that oil-related factors (mostly to do with Britain's relative insulation from the impact of higher oil prices) might have accounted for as much as a third to a half of the pound's strength during 1979 and 1980 when it rose by nearly 25 per cent.

Until quite late in the day

the Government connived at this over-valuation, mainly because it helped in the fight against inflation.

But ministers also seized on the justification put forward by Forsyth and Kay (Fiscal Studies, July 1980). They said that a higher exchange rate was the mechanism by which oil revenues were transformed into purchasing power through cheapening imports, and that by the same token the possession of oil inevitably entailed a contraction of the manufacturing sector which became less competitive.

The existence of a balance of payments surplus, chiefly owing to our possession of oil, and a strong exchange rate, did however permit the Government to abolish exchange controls.

Since then more than £6,000m has gone overseas as investment in foreign stocks and shares, and £5,500m into foreign operations of United Kingdom businesses, attracted by the better returns available abroad. This has

tended to exert downward pressure on the exchange rate, offsetting to some extent the oil-induced rise.

Everyone agrees that because North Sea oil is a finite resource the principal object of policy must be to convert the revenues flowing from it into other assets which will go on yielding income after the oil runs out. What has been the result of government policy so far?

Using the revenues to reduce government borrowing may indeed have reduced interest rates from what they otherwise would have been, given the Government's monetary targets. But the impact of any such reduction on investment has been wholly negated, first by the Government's tight money policy which has kept interest rates high, and secondly, by its restrictive borrowing limit which has depressed the economy — and by dampening demand — has lowered the prospective return on capital projects.

In addition, the impact last

year of the steeply rising exchange rate was to wipe out large parts of manufacturing industry which could no longer compete and to squeeze profits, which in turn led to redundancies and a big cutback in investment, precisely the reverse of what the Government intended.

The high exchange rate did temporarily make the British people better off. It boosted their real incomes by making imports cheaper and thus lowering the rate of inflation. But this was only at the expense of company profitability and it did not last. Living standards are now lower than they were before the Government took office.

So far, then, the oil revenues have gone in three directions — on investment abroad, which provides the only additional permanent assets to show for it, on financing a short-lived boost to personal living standards, most of which went on higher consumption especially of imports; and on meeting the cost of a huge rise in unemployment, one reason why the Government has been relatively unsuccessful in curbing its own borrowing.

The conclusion must be that the Government has so far frittered away most of the benefits of North Sea oil and shows every sign of continuing to do so.

The alternative would have been to pursue an expansionary policy designed to ensure that the additional revenues provided by oil were directed into extra investment, for example, through a special North Sea fund or by subsidizing the cost of investment capital. Without expansion, oil merely displaces other forms of production.

Removal for a few years of the balance of payments constraint would have permitted higher imports of capital equipment to modernize British industry. This would have reduced the current account surplus and lowered the exchange rate, minimizing the adjustment burden for industry and the attractions of investment overseas.

Instead oil has become a burden rather than a blessing on the British people. Sir Michael Edwards was right. We should have left the "bloody stuff" beneath the waves for a more enlightened management.

Frances Williams

## Tough anti-corruption laws in US have been watered down. Edward Symonds reports

### Turning the Nelson eye on bribery

Washington

The next few weeks will be busy ones in the offices of the Senate Judiciary Committee. The committee is now getting under way, neither giving nor alleged receivers of bribes will be blessed.

On the bribe receiving end, the Senate has the minutes flinched and deferred until January its long-drawn-out efforts to impeach Harrison A. Williams, Democrat of New Jersey, on the spear tip for him by the Federal Bureau of Investigation's "Abraham Plot".

On the bribe-giving end, the action will be in the House of Representatives and, of course, the target will be big business. Four months have now passed since McDougall Douglas, a member of the House, vowed to stop the public washing of its dirty linen, agreed to end a two-year suit by paying criminal and civil fines totalling more than \$1.2m for bribes paid in Pakistan, the Philippines, Venezuela and South Korea.

But memories of the revelations of the mid-seventies are being kept green by opponents of the latest effort to tighten the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, which was passed with a great show of reforming zeal in 1977.

In its new round of hearings, held in the usually innocuous setting of the Subcommittee on Antitrust, Consumer Protection and Finance, the House has yet to show its hand. But everyone else has.

The Republican-dominated Senate lost no time in offering the Business Practices and Records Bill, intended to serve as a watered-down version of the Carter-Period Act. Senator William Proxmire, Democrat of Wisconsin, last month abandoned his championing of the 1977 Act, which he helped to draft and now supports the softer measure.

Under the provisions of the Bill that will be awaiting House action early in the new year, a company with a "policy to know" that its employees or agents are offering bribes, will no longer be liable (as it was under the 1977 legislation) to fines of up to \$1m and prison sentences of up to five years.

Under the new law, the Senate is proposing that a management will be breaking the law only if it authorizes bribery "expressly or by course of conduct".

A further Senate proposal is to shift the focus of the law from the SEC's new head, SEC, which played a leading role in the revelations of the last decade, to the Department of Justice's new head, Patrick J. Leahy, who was formerly an investment banker and a vigorous supporter of the Reagan election campaign, has raised no objection to this curbing of his authority. In common with the new Administration as a whole, he has been doing his best to smooth the way for the passage of the Senate package.

The build-up of steam behind the Senate move owes much to the support of business, which still hopes for more favours than it has so far received from the Reagan Administration. The 1977 Act, like the 1981 Companies Act in Britain, is blatantly resented because of the cost of compliance and the danger of confidential disclosures. The consultant fraternity, like Dr Paul H. Nix, American leader of the European disarmament negotiations, now in progress in Geneva, has backed up the business position with weighty arguments against weakening the marketing arm of the multinational corporations.

The American giants are complaining that they are losing millions of dollars in export sales because of their inability to sweeten their offerings in ways that they claim to be "universally adopted" among their foreign competitors.

Mr Harold M. Williams, chairman of the SEC during the Carter Administration, but a critic of the present law, foresees the development, under the Senate version of a "shut-eye approach" by business. The result, he believes, would be the proliferation of a management culture based on the principle "I'm not going to

Company and immediate past chairman of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, has berated the "fuzziness" of the 1977 Act, both as to the adequacy of a company's internal controls and as to the extent of a transgression (from a free lunch to an unmarked envelope stashed with cash) that should be castigated as "material" and hence subject to censure and possible legal action.

The Senate proposal seeks to reduce some of the uncertainty by limiting head office reporting responsibility for minority-interest foreign affiliates, and by providing that a bribe will only be illegal abroad if paid in a country in which such actions are disallowed under local law.

In practice, of course, even the humblest of banana republics usually boasts stringent anti-bribery laws. In the mid-seventies revelations it was the countries, whose officials and purchasing agents had been bribed, that were the most vehement in their demands for redress.

Another weakness of the Senate proposal is that, to the legal mind, the language offered as a substitute for the present clause on "reason to know" could make a dead letter of that part of the law.

Mr Harold M. Williams, chairman of the SEC during the Carter Administration, but a critic of the present law, foresees the development, under the Senate version of a "shut-eye approach" by business. The result, he believes, would be the proliferation of a management culture based on the principle "I'm not going to

direct, I'm not going to authorize, and don't tell me".

From this point of view, a preferable strategy would be to abandon the anti-bribery effort altogether. If this be the Administration's ultimate intention, there is (understandably) no desire to trumpet it from the roof tops.

In the meantime, the Department of Justice is left with the choice of enforcing the 1977 statute. Mr Jonathan C. Rose is the assistant attorney general who is carrying most of this load. Significantly, he is an office holder from the Carter Administration.

Last month Mr Rose told the House that his department had no fewer than 54 cases of possible foreign bribery under investigation. The Justice Department, as always, has its lips sealed on the identity of the companies under suspicion. Observers believe that the leading resource, electronic and communications companies were too severely scared during the 70s to feature again among today's group of possible transgressors.

Such proceedings under the 1977 Act have in the past generally been settled out of court. Under the new administration, and with such a heavy case load on the docket, the expectation is that (regardless of whatever legislative progress is made) the Department of Justice will struggle to speed up the settlement process to the full extent allowed under the present law.

Personal Sector Liquidity £000m

	Bank Deposits	Building Soc. Deposits
1970	10.1	10.1
1977	21.0	31.7
1978	24.2	36.6
1979	30.3	42.4
1980	36.6	49.5

sector. That, however, must entail adequate thought being given to how the capital structure of the building societies might evolve to enable them to be soundly based as more active participants in a broader range of financial services.

There are, however, further advantages that could flow from an evolution of the financial services structure.

## Business Diary profile: Giuseppe Cabassi, Milan's Mr Sandman

Milan

His empire, he himself admits, is founded on sand. "El Sabunaro" or "The Sandman" is the Milanese dialect nickname for Giuseppe Cabassi, one of the latest entrepreneurs to set tongues wagging in Italy's business capital.

Is he buying into the aging Rizzoli-Corriere Della Sera newspaper and publishing group? Is he selling the Rinascente-Upim stores chain to Roberto Calvi, the controversial banker?

Is he teaming up with the Socialist Party — this last rumour because he was seen dining, children and all, at the next table to the Socialist Party secretary, Bettino Craxi at a Milan restaurant.

There may be both truth and fiction in all these. Cabassi is not given to advertising his activities; his staff is not even allowed to provide his photograph. "He is too modest," is the way staff members put it.

The family portrait would show a bushy browed, quiet spoken, handsome man of 52, married with eight children, of whom the eldest son of 24 works with his father, while another of 20 is studying at a seminary for the priesthood.

It began with sand, rather with sandpits left by his father for supplying the building industry. One thing led to another — sand to

building and property, then to hotels and tourism, and also to insurance. Cabassi has probably as many companies quoted on the Milan Bourse as anyone — De Angeli Frus, Ansonia, Brocchi, Centrone, Zinelli, La Rinascente and Isvim.



From sandpits to strong-room: Giuseppe Cabassi, "The Sandman". Milan's strong-rooms help the rich sleep easier at night.

Sindona and Caltagirone of the 1970s.

Others of Cabassi's ilk include Silvio Berlusconi, 44 (property development, private television); Orazio Legnasco, 54 (fruit trusts, luxury cars); and Cletto Teruzzi, 55 (bourse operations); and most prominent of all, Carlo de Benedetti of Olivetti, who is also vice-chairman of Banco Ambrosiano.

His activities, according to Cabassi, fall into three areas — insurance (five companies, Ansonia, Venetia, Intercontinental, Levanto), Europe (property De Angeli Frus and Brocchi), and hotels (Isvim).

Plenty of movement is going on. The insurance groups claim annual premiums of 350,000 lire (£150m). The hotel group is expanding. De Angeli Frus is being reshaped as a holding company, with a controlling interest in La Rinascente, bought last year.

Brigischi is to be cornerstone of the property interest, and is undergoing a huge development. He is building on the southern outskirts, near the entry to the Genoa motorway. "This is what is nearest to my heart," he says with a nod towards the glass-fronted, half-deserted blocks looming through the wintry mist, looking like the set of a Fellini film.

There will be office accommodation for 15,000, an hotel, and a congress centre to seat

1,800. The World Trade Centre in Italy will be here, and also the Milan agricultural commodities bourse. He would evidently like to attract the Milan trade fair which, since 1961, the city centre, is "outdated from all points of view."

What is the recipe for such self-made progress? The choice of men, is Cabassi's answer. If he buys a company, he does not try to run it, but carefully selects the management. "Any firm can be good if it has the people to make the wheels turn round," he said.

His staff add another reason for success — barter. He finances activities by offering in exchange property rights at Milanofiori, a useful way of minimizing bank exposure in times of high interest rates.

Even so, it is not always easy going. He realized years ago that Milan was bursting with office development. He is outside the city limits. He had an area near the Como-Turin motorway junction, but never received building permission. Then he heard the Visconti family and a private company had development permits about to expire in what is now Milanofiori, so he jumped at the opportunity.

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John Earle

## BURGESS PRODUCTS (Holdings) P.L.C.

(Light electrical and acoustical engineers)

Extracts from Mr W. Riddell's Statement: Profits for the year are reasonably satisfactory when viewed against the background of the effects of the recession on the Group's operations.

Burgess Architectural Products had a reasonably profitable year with activity in the U.K. market where the low level of activity still reflects a sluggish building industry. Turnover at Burgess Industrial Silencing was down but profitability continued to improve.

In the U.K., the markets for Burgess Micro Switch were depressed and extremely competitive, whilst improved results are anticipated from the three overseas companies in the current year.

At Burgess Power Tools reduced domestic spending and the strength of sterling continued to have adverse effects on home and export sales respectively although current exchange rates could foreshadow some improvement in exports.

Continuing low demand for original equipment and very keen competition in the field of replacement equipment resulted in a very low level of activity for Burgess Products Company. Sales and Engineering efforts have resulted in new contracts and whilst these are yet at a modest level, they will be quite substantial as and when the truck and tractor industries recover from the recession.

The Balance Sheet has been considerably strengthened by the reduction in working capital during the year and the Group has adequate borrowing facilities to take advantage of an improvement in the economy when it arises. The next year's results will reveal that less than 20% of the Group's average fixed assets and working capital during the year was financed by borrowing and is an additional indication of the underlying strength of the Group.











## Skiing

## Bartelski's remarkable run brings him in from the cold

By John Hennessey

Konrad Bartelski, the 27-year-old son of a Polish ski jumper, achieved the most remarkable result in the history of British skiing yesterday. He finished second to Erwin Neuner, Austria, in a World Cup downhill race at Val Gardena, Italy, beating only 11/100ths of a second. You have to go back to the 60s to find a parallel case, to Gino Zaccaria's second place in the SD3 slalom at Grindelwald.

But whereas Miss Hachon, second to none as a technician, always had such a result within her powers, Bartelski, by contrast, passed Bartelski by. In particular, his 63rd place in the first downhill of the season, at Val d'Isère a week ago, seemed to suggest that he was now a fortune teller. The promise held out by his 15th place in the world championship downhill at St Moritz in 1974 and his 15th place in the last winter Olympics at Lake Placid, two years ago, was now surely dashed.

Beyond all that, the points at Val Gardena were discouraging. He had not gone well in training, apparently at odds with his skills, and he had to tackle yesterday's race with a heavy cold, his eyes watering and his nose blocked up.

Yet Bartelski, starting well behind the first privileged group, took a lead at first intermediary

point and was a fifth of a second ahead of Neuner at the second. He could not quite match the Austrian's finish and, indeed, nearly came to grief in a flat light at the final jump where he landed in a sitting position. He managed to stand up, however, and was soon flourishing his stick in triumph with a huge smile on his face. Neuner, himself, could not have been more delighted.

He had shown guts as well as courage and when he later answered a call from a friend with "I've got the bottle," he was referring to champagne but he might just as well have been using the term in its modern colloquial sense.

Asked afterwards why he had done so well, Bartelski said he had been as surprised as anyone. "I put it in a bottle and marked it," he said. "I didn't even know he'd done so well. But when I finished and heard some people cheering I thought it might be a bit better; then I turned round and saw Neuner. I was a bit shocked."

He said he was a bit shocked. "I didn't even know he'd done so well. But when I finished and heard some people cheering I thought it might be a bit better; then I turned round and saw Neuner. I was a bit shocked."

British skiers: 66. F Burton, 2:12.94; 67. R Duncan, 2:16.48. Leading men's alpine position after 11/100ths of a second. Neuner (Austria) 1:58.30; 2. Bartelski (Poland) 1:58.41; 3. E. Neuner (Austria) 1:58.51; 4. J. Neuner (Austria) 1:58.52; 5. E. Neuner (Austria) 1:58.53; 6. E. Neuner (Austria) 1:58.54; 7. E. Neuner (Austria) 1:58.55; 8. E. Neuner (Austria) 1:58.56; 9. E. Neuner (Austria) 1:58.57; 10. E. Neuner (Austria) 1:58.58; 11. E. Neuner (Austria) 1:58.59; 12. E. Neuner (Austria) 1:58.60; 13. E. Neuner (Austria) 1:58.61; 14. E. Neuner (Austria) 1:58.62; 15. E. Neuner (Austria) 1:58.63; 16. E. Neuner (Austria) 1:58.64; 17. E. Neuner (Austria) 1:58.65; 18. E. Neuner (Austria) 1:58.66; 19. E. Neuner (Austria) 1:58.67; 20. E. Neuner (Austria) 1:58.68; 21. E. Neuner (Austria) 1:58.69; 22. E. Neuner (Austria) 1:58.70; 23. E. Neuner (Austria) 1:58.71; 24. E. Neuner (Austria) 1:58.72; 25. E. Neuner (Austria) 1:58.73; 26. E. Neuner (Austria) 1:58.74; 27. E. Neuner (Austria) 1:58.75; 28. 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Commercial Property by Baron Phillips

Christmas gloom for City Lettings

A Debenham Tewson & Chinnocks survey shows there has been a sharp rise in vacant office space during November, taking the total to 1.7m sq ft.

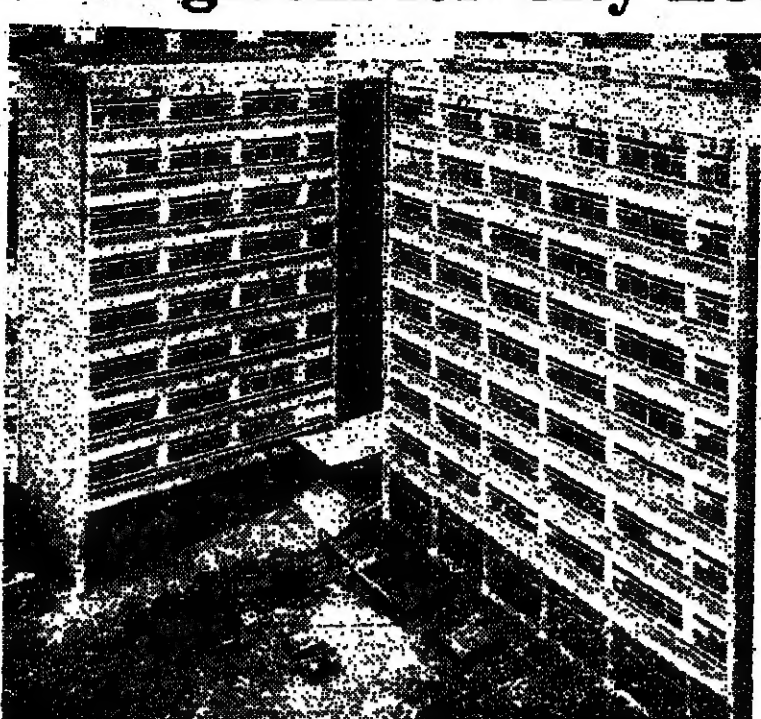
Traditionally December is a poor month for City lettings and so far the run up to Christmas indicates a worse than normal situation. During November, more than 200,000 sq ft of office accommodation found its way on to the market, an increase of 24,000 sq ft over the previous month.

Increased empty office space occurred in the EC and WC postal districts covered by the survey. The largest single block of 145,000 sq ft came on to the market. This is the largest of the 11 office units in excess of 50,000 sq ft on the open market in the survey area. WC2 registered the greatest surge in vacant space, rising from 250,000 sq ft in October to 441,000 sq ft last month.

Against this gloomy picture of rising empty space, the amount of accommodation actually let in November remained on a level of the previous month, the agents say, at around 300,000 sq ft. The largest single letting last month was 27,000 sq ft in the EC1 district.

But DT & C note that the impact of vacant space was lessened in November by the unusually high number of buildings withdrawn from the market. Overall empty office accommodation within the City area increased by only 189,000 sq ft.

The only district to show any activity was EC1 where about 78,000 sq ft of space was let, sold or went under offer. This was a substantial increase on the previous month's activity when a meagre 17,000 sq ft found a new tenant or owner. At the other end of the scale,



Television South has leased 16,340 sq ft in Kent House, Lower Stone Street, Maidstone, from Kent County Council. The letting follows the move by TVS to construct new television studios in Maidstone. Joint agents Walter and Farnall and Richard Ellis state that only 24,510 sq ft are vacant in the building.

lettings fell dramatically in EC4 from 124,000 sq ft in October to only 51,000 sq ft last month.

It is uncertain how much of this steady rise in vacant office accommodation is directly attributable to a sluggish economy but clearly, many prospective tenants are deferring any decision-making until the picture is clearer. Observers in the investment field indicate that institutions, in particular, are becoming increasingly chary of committing large amounts of funds for future development. It seems likely that the mainstream property market is likely to remain in the doldrums until spring.

While the City and the

agents note that there has been little evidence of any shortage of office space in Holland.

Demand has been muted and rents have been declining over the last six months. In Amsterdam, prime rents have slipped from Dfl350 a sq metre to Dfl325 a sq metre (about £7.10 a sq ft to £6.50 a sq ft).

Slippage has been less noticeable in other major cities like The Hague and Rotterdam where the fall has been in the order of only Dfl10 to Dfl20 a sq metre. As a consequence, Savills report that there is great opportunity for office rental growth in those cities than in Amsterdam where there is far more buildings under construction.

Holland's poor economy is taking its toll of the retailing sector. Savills say that the country's main shopping streets continue to show a high degree of volatility.

In Amsterdam, the prime pedestrianized Kalverstraat has between 10-15 per cent of its total shops either available on the market or potentially available if approached.

Rents are presently in the Dfl1,100-Dfl1,200 a sq metre range (£22.50-£24.60 a sq ft) and Savills are forecasting that these could well fall to Dfl1,000-Dfl1,100 a sq metre before next spring.

Other shopping streets in Amsterdam are showing the same trend and the fall is not only restricted to that city. In Rotterdam, the main shopping pitch has already been trimmed to Dfl1,000 a sq metre.

A similar picture is emerging in Holland's industrial property scene where rents in the Randstad, prime industrial area, has fallen from Dfl80-90 a sq metre to Dfl75-90 a sq metre (£1.64-£1.84 to £1.53-£1.84 a sq ft) during the past six months.

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Mind National Assoc. for Mental Health. 122 Harley St. W.1. 01-637 0741.

Muscular Dystrophy Group of Great Britain. 100 Marylebone Rd., London NW4 0DP. 01-720 8055.

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The Royal Hospital & Home for incurables. For the incurable and very severely disabled. Shelter Campaign for the Homeless. Room 415, 157 Waterloo Rd. SE1. 01-633 0277. Please contact people need shelter.

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appointments**  
(continued on page 18)

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**Edited by Peter Dear**

## David Symon

**Radio 1**  
 12.00 As Radio 2. 7.00 Mike Read.  
 11.00 Simon Bates. 11.30 Dave Lee  
 Evans. 12.30 Newsbeat. 2.00 Paul  
 Barnett. 5.00 Peter Powell. 7.00  
 'Crescent' Alive. 8.00 David Jensen  
 9.00 John Peel. 12.00 Close. YHF  
 Radios 1 and 2: 5.00 With Radio 2.  
 12.00 With Radio 1. 12.00 With Radio

**World Service**

Hours	World News Summary	3:30	Courtesy
7:45	Short Story	8:00	World News
8:00	World News Summary	8:15	Courtesy
8:30	Baker's Hall	9:00	World News
9:00	World News Summary	9:15	Courtesy
9:30	On an Observer	9:30	Good Books
9:45	World News	9:45	World News
10:00	World News Summary	10:15	Courtesy
10:30	Frank Mr. Goes into	10:30	World News
11:00	World News	11:00	World News
11:15	World News Summary	11:30	Courtesy
12:00	Present of the Past	12:00	Radio News
12:15	World News	12:15	World News
1:00	World News Summary	1:00	World News
1:15	World News Summary	1:15	Courtesy
2:00	Radio Good	3:00	Radio
3:15	Outlook	4:00	World News
4:15	World News	4:30	World News
4:45	The World Today	5:00	World News
5:15	World News Summary	5:30	Courtesy
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**YORKSHIRE**  
Thames except Starts 9.30

**WESTWARD**

**HTV**  
Thames except: Atlanta 9:45  
Savannah Street, 10:45 Babilo & Bird  
10:10-11:00, 12:00-1:30 News  
1:10-1:30, 12:01-1:30 News  
1:30: Rhondas of Africa\* (Walter  
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recognizes the potential of the Rhine  
lands of Africa. 1:15-5:45 Flonates  
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**HTV CYMRU/WALES**  
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dramatically different for at luncheon he is due to receive his award in the House of Commons from Lord Home of the Hirsel. Mr Jones was excited and honoured by the prospect, but thought of the journey to the metropolis clearly held more dread for him than searching for a lost sheep in the worst of the winter conditions.

The ceremony over, Mr Jones will waste no time in returning to Ysguborlau with his wife Lynda, who admits that at times she has to take second place to sheep.

If ever Mr Jones is short of guidance, he can turn the diaries of his forebears back to his great, great, great grandfather, starting in 1815, when sheep were worth eleven shillings. As he said before we left him on his mountain:

"That Sire in my blood"  
 The Sheep Sire of the Year award is organised by Livestock Farming and sponsored by Rumageau Limited.

Continued from page 1.

unable to run direct services between London, Bristol and South Wales. British Rail gave a warning that the situation was likely to deteriorate and said it would be restricted today.

At sea one sailor drowned and 24 people were rescued from the Channel after jumping into mountainous seas from the 10,000 ton motor-registered cargo ship, *Boatini*. She started listing at 45 degrees of heel when 20 miles south of Portland Bill.

A man, a woman and two children were taken to the Royal Naval Air Station sickbay at Portland. Another eight people were picked up by the lifeboat to await transfer to King helicopter to Portland.

Another man was lost after a small fishing boat overturned as it tried to reach safety at Newhaven harbour, Sussex.

The boat, the 26-ft long *Orlando* from Cornwall was less than 100 yards from the harbour when the two-man crew were pitched into the sea.

Both Newhaven lifeboats were launched and quickly picked up one of the men. They continued the search with a Royal Navy helicopter for the other man until dark, no sign.

On the Kent coast, sea lashed by force 10 winds caused extensive flooding in low lying areas. At Hythe and Margate, the sea swept seaward cottages. Seaward several feet deep surrounded scores of houses and the main coast road between Folkestone and Hastings was closed for two days.

Fifty patients, physically handicapped patients were evacuated from hospital at Hayling Island, Hampshire, as a sea-wall was in danger of collapsing. Heavy seas poured over the sea wall and flooded the area near the hospital and the patients, aged up to 70, were hurried to the mainland.

The patients, many in a distressed state, were given food and shelter at an emergency centre set up at Little Havant, before being transferred to Colchester Hospital.

Cowes, on the Isle of Wight, had its highest tide for nearly 60 years. Waves swept over garden and the beachside of houses. The same high tide battered the northern coast of the island and there was two to three feet of floodwater at All Saints.

Along the south coast many small boats were ripped from their moorings. Inland the rivers Avon and Stour burst their banks at Christchurch, Dorset, leaving some small villages under a hail of water from the river.

From London, southwards, the snowdrifts around houses threatened by the flood. At Queens Quay, London was flooded and with hundreds of acres of meadowland under water, livestock had to be moved by safety.

The fierce winds caused at least two deaths. A man was killed and a woman passenger seriously injured when a tree fell on a car on the road between Carmarthen and Kidwelly in Dyfed and a 70-year-old woman motorist was killed in Dublin when a portable hut fell from a lorry onto her car.

Scotland had borne the brunt of the bad weather overnight. Yesterday snow blocked many roads in the north and thousands were waiting at terminals because of a backlog of delayed flights from the past few days.

A British Airways spokesman said: "Maintenance crews have been trying to work in temperatures of minus 15 degrees centigrade. Equipment was frozen and rigs could not move the big jets because of ice."

Britain has recorded its lowest temperatures since records began 100 years ago. On Saturday, for the second night running, the coldest area was at Sharncliffe, near the Office at Shawbury, near Shrewsbury, recorded minus 25 degrees centigrade, four degrees colder than on the previous night.

At the village of Preston Park, nearby, however, Dr Derek Owen, a chemist, recorded a temperature of minus 23.8 degrees centigrade in the garden of his old mother house. He said: "My wife has lived in this five times the coldest house in the world and I am beginning to think she is right."

At Shawbury itself, the village garage proprietor, Mr Graham Wilde, said: "We have had a lot of people in the shop whose car radiators froze up as they were driving along."

Four policemen, meanwhile, are struggling through Arctic blizzards and temperatures of minus 37 degrees centigrade in the snowdrifts.

The men, from Surrey police traffic department, have been on an expedition to North Cape in Norway, for charity.

They reached there on snow scooters on Friday and are now on their way back to the coast. The snowdrifts are only just

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